

RELAY

RESOURCES®

TO: House Committee on Business and Labor
FR: Cameron Stewart, *Vice President of Building Solutions, Relay Resources*
DA: January 11, 2022
RE: Support for LC 178, relating to requirements for procurements from qualified non-profit agencies

Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Bonham, Vice Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Cameron Stewart and I am the Vice President of Building Solutions for Relay Resources. Relay Resources is an Oregon 501 (C) (3) non-profit and an Oregon Forward Contractor (formerly known as a Qualified Rehabilitation Facility or QRF). We were established as Portland Children's Center in 1951. We have a long and successful history of serving people with disabilities, having celebrated our 70th anniversary last Fall. Our employees have the ability and desire to succeed in the work force, but may lack the resources to get there. Most face physical, mental, or developmental disabilities. Our mission is to cultivate meaningful work for these employees.

We do this by creating opportunities for people to overcome barriers, achieve independence, and realize a stronger sense of purpose through training, employment and housing. Relay's Janitorial division employs 500 frontline workers in Oregon. We are responsible for cleaning more than 10 million square feet every single day at a wide range of facilities including the Portland International Airport, Portland State University, and Bonneville Dam to name a few. We're good at what we do because we meet people where they're at, focusing on the strengths of the individual and not their disability. Ensuring we are meeting the basic needs of our employees, which includes access to living wages and healthcare, is essential to our model.

As an Oregon Forward contractor, we follow both the letter and the spirit of Oregon law by providing our employees with the highest level of wages and benefits possible. When competitor OFCs avoid their successor obligations under Oregon law it puts us at a disadvantage and drives down standards for workers with disabilities. Less than 5% of our employees have remained at their worksites as employees of the successor contractor following a contract transition, due to their fears of losing their benefits or having to wait 90 days for comparable benefits to kick in. We need an even playing field to be able to continue our work of providing good jobs for people with disabilities. Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,
Cameron Stewart
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