

March 11, 2021

Attention: House Committee on Rules

Subject: HB 3110 Testimony – Publicly Traded Corporations minimum number of women and people from underrepresented communities on their Boards of Directors

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of this bill.

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the Vote for Women in the United States. Women (and men) celebrated this achievement, but because of Covid, it was not the grand celebration that we all had hoped for. One hundred years of women voting, and it took many years to gain that suffrage.

How far have we come in the last century? Women and people of color are still vastly underrepresented in leadership roles, both in public office, at universities, and specifically on corporate boards. I have had a 40+ year career, first in the corporate world, and later as an administrator in higher education. In my ten-year stint in the corporate world of advertising, women were just beginning to be recognized as an important part of the work force. Who knew the products better? In my administrative positions, I served on numerous non-profit boards, where women were recognized and highly regarded as leaders who could make sound decisions and attract other talented women. I served on a professional board where diverse viewpoints were respected and critical to the talent management and mentorship of upcoming leaders. In fact, women and underrepresented peoples were sought after and recruited for their value.

Now it's time for corporate boards to expand representation of women and underrepresented communities. It actually seems shameful in the 21st Century that our state needs to **require** corporate boards to do something that is beneficial to their organization and to their bottom line. It seems like corporations should be eager to seek out these potential board members. It also seems like we are still back in 1920 trying to get the vote for women!

As a member of AAUW Oregon, I strongly urge your support of this bill.

Respectfully,

Patricia E. Squire
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