

To: Chair Chuck Riley, Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
Vice-Chair Bill Hansell  
Senator Kayse Jama  
Senator Bill Kenemer  
Senator Kate Lieber  
From: Scott Winkels, League of Oregon Cities  
Date: 2/29/21  
Re: Support for HB 2818A -A4

Chair Riley and members of the Committee, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) is writing to support the -A4 amendment to HB 2818A which would allow employer to offer incentives for employees to receive the COVID vaccine. Oregon's cities are encouraging employees to get vaccinated against COVID but find that some employees believe that getting the shot is logistically complicated or that they may need to take additional time to recover from a vaccine reaction.

Cities want their employees to be safe and protected from the virus and may wish to provide additional paid time off or other accommodations to improve community immunity rates in a workplace. However, Oregon's equal pay statutes was not constructed with a pandemic in mind. The -A4 will simply provide that a vaccine incentive, monetary or otherwise, will not place an employer in jeopardy of a complaint made under ORS 652.210 which requires equality in compensation. Please allow cities and other employers to assist employees who need it to get vaccinated.

The -A4 is a simple fix that will have a positive impact on workplace and public health and Oregon's cities urge its adoption.