

## Oregon House Business and Labor Committee

### Testimony for Age Discrimination Task Force Bill (HB 2938)

2/15/21

My name is Claire Berger. I live at 2789 Heather Way in Forest Grove, Oregon. I am a native and life-long resident of Oregon and a member of the American Association of University Women. I support this bill in its entirety because I was a victim of age discrimination in employment. In my working life, I have assumed many leadership roles on the state and national levels. I worked in management in the Oregon Economic Development Department, as a policy advisor in Workforce Development with Governor Kulongoski, and a national consultant with the US Head Start Bureau. I was successful in all these positions. After a brief time as a personal consultant in the private sector, I attempted to go back to the state to serve in a variety of state agencies. By this time, I was in my late '50's and due to my extensive work background, I was called in to participate in many interviews. I was unable to secure a position, even with good references and positive feedback. I watched as people much younger and less experienced secured the positions. I was forced to retire much earlier and with less income.

I am a good example of how age discrimination effects a woman's ability to gain employment after a certain age. Age discrimination in employment also effects the ability to garner sufficient retirement income to live comfortably. I am supporting this bill and the information collected from this bill to determine the breadth and scope of age discrimination.