

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business & Labor Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2800. I am 69 years old and will be 70 in July. I was born and raised in Portland and have worked and paid taxes since I was 16. After my retirement, I began serving as a volunteer with AARP Oregon. I retired in 2015 with no real intentions of going back into the workforce. However, after a year or so in retirement and experiencing some financial hardships, I saw the need to re-enter the workforce. I applied for a job that I was more than qualified for, but when I didn't even get an interview, I suspected age discrimination. I quickly surmised that it mattered not how qualified I was, but that the information in my resume revealed my age and how far back my high school and college days were.

Age discrimination threatens the financial security of older workers by pushing them out of the workforce and denying them jobs and promotions. We need to remove employment barriers and address negative stereotypes, allowing older workers to be part of solving our workforce shortages. Age discrimination has prohibited me from supplementing my income toward a livable income.

We need to fix **Oregon's Workplace Age Discrimination law**, so all workers are treated fairly based on their qualifications not their age.

Thank you for your consideration and please protect older workers like me, and pass **HB 2800**.

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