

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 3028

February 1st, 2023

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer, Sosa and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

I want to begin by thanking our civil servants who serve on rule making bodies for our State agencies and programs for their invaluable service to Oregon. This session, [HB 3028 \(2023\)](#) builds on the work we did in [HB 2992 \(2021\)](#) by removing another socioeconomic barriers to serving on our 250+ State boards and commissions. These bodies do critical work for our government, ensuring that citizens and members of the public can participate in the public process, oversee the implementation of policies and rules, and serve as a voice for our communities.

Many who serve in these public positions are volunteers and often participate as an extension of their professional work. Unfortunately, this excludes many from serving, including our lower wage workers and front line employees who cannot take time off to attend meetings, hold discussions, and make policy decisions. I believe that rule-making bodies should strive to be inclusive, diverse, and reflective of our communities in order to have a strong understanding of the impacts that rules and policies have on Oregonians.

HB 3028 aims to ensure that employees are able to take time away from their jobs to serve in their appointed position by providing job protections for those who serve as a commissioner or committee member. This bill is key to elevating an important civic role in our democracy as boards and commissions are a link between the public and our governance.

Thank you for your consideration, I urge you to pass HB 3028.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron".

Representative Courtney Neron

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain