

Submitter: Lee Bliven II

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2800

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business & Labor Committee,
I am writing in support of HB 2800.

This bill is an extremely important and personal bill for me, since I have been on both sides of the hiring experience. When I was first hired, I was told that this profession was a “young man’s job”. Back in 1970, it was what people said. When I owned my own company, starting in 1990, we still told applicants the same thing, even though most of the work force were older. I retired in 2012 to take care of my wife, who became disabled. In 2018, I tried to go back to work. This was the same work I had been doing for 40+ years. I was told that I was “over qualified”, and that it would cost too much to hire me. That was the new way saying “you are too old”.

When HB 2800 is enacted, this age discrimination would not be allowed. Age discrimination is real and needs to be stopped. As I stated earlier I am retired because I am 72 years old and this is a young person’s world. When you are older, even teaching may not be an option due to age discrimination.

When I saw AARP was behind this bill, I knew that it was the right thing to support. If this bill was enacted earlier, I could have been hired for my experience and expertise and not denied consideration because I was too close to being on Social Security Retirement.

I urge you to support and pass HB 2800 to protect all of our work force.

Respectfully,

Lee A. Bliven II
Eugene, Oregon