

February 4, 2023

Paul Holvey,
Chair House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Chair Holvey and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

Disability Rights Oregon is writing in support of HB 2800. Age discrimination is a very real problem in Oregon. Age discrimination often is tied hand in hand with employers' negative bias against people with disabilities. Older workers are perceived as more likely to have serious health issues, unable to keep up with their younger co-workers or out of touch with current technology. All of these misconceptions lead to highly qualified people being screened out of the application process.

It is important to draw a hard line outlawing these types of discrimination based on stereotypes that have no merit. Each individual deserves to be considered on their own skills and experiences and not be categorically rejected. Seniors bring unique prospective and experiences to a work force and it is in everyone's best interest to stop these practices that are keeping high quality workers out of the work force.

DRO strongly supports the passage of HB 2800 and believes that this bill will help end this type of discrimination workers across Oregon experience. If you have questions regarding DRO's position on this bill please contact Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777 or mmoyer@droregon.org.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

¹ See ORS 192.517.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).