



CHRISTINA E. STEPHENSON
Commissioner of the
Bureau of Labor and Industries

TO: Chair Dembrow
Vice-Chair Weber
Members of the Senate Committee on Education.

FR: Josh Nasbe, Legislative Director, Bureau of Labor and Industries.

February 7, 2023

Among other tasks, the Bureau of Labor and Industries is charged with protecting Oregon's workplaces, places of public accommodation and housing market from unlawful discrimination. In these areas, Oregon law seeks to ensure the human dignity of all people, by eliminating discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status, age, disability or familial status. The Bureau works towards this goal in a number of different ways, including by providing compliance-related business advice to Oregon employers and processing claims of civil rights violations filed by Oregon employees.

The Bureau strives to support our public education providers and our public employees to ensure that our workplaces are free from unlawful discrimination and from any other violations of employment law. In addition, Oregon law specifically prohibits places of public accommodation from discriminating against individuals with a disability. The Bureau has recently begun to work with the Oregon Department of Justice to precisely define the contours of Oregon's public accommodation statutes. And we of course look forward to working with this Committee towards our shared goal of achieving a discrimination-free Oregon.

