

Submitter: Monica Wirtz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2800

To Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Sosa, and Members of the Committee:

I am 53 years old and am decades away from "retirement". I am a constituent of Representative Ruiz and Senator Gorsek and I vote. I support HB2800 and request you to report out with a "DO PASS" recommendation. We need a clear definition of what it means to discriminate "on the basis of age" and guardrails for employers to prevent them from using proxies for age and verbiage suggesting age preference in applications. Experience gained over a longer lifetime - the institutional knowledge and interpersonal maturity for example - is a plus, not a minus. Older workers have much to offer and bring diversity of perspective and culture to the workplace. People are living longer and therefore need to support themselves longer. If we don't take steps to ensure older workers can find employment, the community risks losing this vast experience and economic success, and perhaps most frighteningly, risks an exponential rise in older adult poverty and isolation which are cruel and much harder to remedy. Please be proactive and report out a DO PASS on HB2800.

Monica, Gresham Oregon