



**OFFICE of EQUITY  
and HUMAN RIGHTS**  
CITY OF PORTLAND

**Commissioner in Charge:**  
Dan Ryan  
**Bureau Director:**  
Lisa Watson



**BHR**  
BUREAU OF  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES

**Commissioner in Charge:**  
Mayor Ted Wheeler  
**Chief Human  
Resource Officer:**  
Cathy L. Bless



**TO:** Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Cahir Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services  
**FROM:** The City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights and Bureau of Human Resources  
**DATE:** February 8, 2023  
**RE:** Testimony on SB569

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In 2015, the City of Portland enacted [Ordinance 187454](#) to enter a new City Code provision requiring Portland-area businesses to display closed captions on televisions located in public spaces such as airport lounges, hospital waiting rooms, and restaurants. We are pleased to see the State of Oregon is working to enact a similar code through Senate Bill 569, and would like to express our full support for its passage and implementation.

Since adopting the City Code provision on closed captions, the City of Portland has had a mixed ability to enforce the code due to limited resources and some disagreement about who is responsible for enforcement. It is our suggestion that the State consider attaching an enforcement mechanism to the passing of this Bill. Additionally, the City encourages the State to run an educational campaign alerting business owners on the importance of activating captions in places where the public are viewing television screens. This will assist businesses in better understanding their new obligation and its value to the customers they serve.

Captions provide equitable access to television programs for a wide range of audiences, including older people who experience hearing loss, people of all ages who are hard-of-hearing or deaf, and people with other types of disabilities who benefit from additional visual input. Captions also benefit people who simply appreciate being able to follow along with a sports event or a news broadcast in noisy environments, such as restaurants and bars. This bill benefits all Oregonians in gaining equal access to essential information and enjoyment of televised entertainment.

Should this bill pass, the City of Portland will gladly support, reinforce, and implement the State code to the best of its ability.

*The City of Portland ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services. To request these services, contact 311 (503-823-4000), for Relay Service & TTY: 711*