



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4147 - Workplace Age Discrimination
House Committee on Rules | February 3rd 2026

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Representative Lamar Wise, and I proudly represent House District 48, SE Portland and North Clackamas. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 4147.

HB 4147 is a transparency and accountability bill, plain and simple. It asks a basic but important question: When large employers have workers who must rely on state-funded health care to meet their basic needs, do we have the data to understand why?

This bill directs the Oregon Health Authority, working with the Department of Human Services and the Employment Department, to produce an annual, public report identifying large employers, those with 50 or more employees, whose workers or dependents are enrolled in medical assistance programs. The report includes high-level information such as employer size, industry, wage categories, and the aggregate cost to the state.

What this bill does not do is just as important. It does not disclose personal or protected health information. It does not penalize employers. And it does not draw conclusions or assign blame. Instead, it gives policymakers, researchers, and the public a clearer picture of how our labor market and our public health systems intersect.

Too often, conversations about Medicaid costs happen in the abstract. HB 4147 grounds that conversation in real, statewide data so we can better understand trends over time, by industry, region, and employer size, and make informed decisions about workforce policy, health coverage, and economic development.

If we are serious about supporting working families, being responsible stewards of public dollars, and strengthening our economy, we need this level of transparency. HB 4147 equips the Legislature with facts, not assumptions, and does so with strong guardrails around privacy and data security.

I urge the committee to support HB 4147 and move this important transparency measure forward.

Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions.