

Submitter: Viki Desler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

My name is Viki Desler and I live in Pendeton Oregon. I am a 69 year old widow who raised my children who lost their father in 1999. My oldest was a Junior in High School and my youngest was in the 8th grade. My worst nightmare came true, being a single parent. I know what that is like. I know how hard it is to maintain a house payment, medical care and food for the family. Budgets are tight everywhere. Yours could be too.

I have been working since 1971. I am working today, although I will be retiring next week. I have held jobs in Hospitality, Manufacturing, State Government, Private Non Profit (based on Federal Grant funding), owned a business, and as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor for Probation and Parole, and am retiring from a private attorney. During my work life I always feared being terminated. I was afraid I could not take care of my family after my husband died. I did my jobs with pride and a strong constitution. I worked hard for my employers and was a dedicated employee to the needs and expectations of my employers. I respected my employees and felt horrible the day I had to close our business after my husband passed away. It was not a decision I took lightly.

Have you thought at all about your employers? The people who voted you into office? Who have supported you and paid your salary? I have so many questions regarding those thoughts. Do you not understand that you can lose your job over your voting decision? Have you been worried about that? Do you not like your employers?

If you don't like them, why did you take the job?

Over 200 thousand of your employers have signed a petition, Referendum Petition 2026-302 to send said referendum to your employers at the General Election in November, 2026. However, you are now considering that this be moved to the May Primary Election for the voters to decide. I, as an employer, see that as nothing short of insubordination, thus terminating your employment would be in my best interest.

I would call that a good indication that you should be feeling a bit uncomfortable right now. You should be considering your own future and employment.

Will you be working after May? Will you be working after November? Should you be planning for your future? Will you be able to take care of your family in the way they are accustomed to? What will you do if you are not employed? Just how does that feel?

As you can see I have more questions than you probably want to hear. That is specifically why I did not testify in person. I know I could not say everything that needs to be said in a time allotment. I could turn this into a college level thesis and bore you to tears, but the only tears I have faith you will shed are the ones that will appear when you are terminated from your employment for insubordination, as that is what will happen, based on only a 2 week effort to obtain signatures for a November vote. Imagine what could happen in two months.

I sincerely hope you make the correct decision for your employers and Oregon itself.

Thank you for reading my testimony in it's entirety. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Best of luck in making the decision that just might save your employment as well as opportunities in the future.

Sincerely,
Viki Desler