Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Betsy Johnson
Oregon State Capitol, S-209
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Johnson:

I own and operate a staffing agency in North Portland that serves a large area within your district. I've followed closely, with great concern, HB 2977 as it has worked its way into your committee. Suffice it to say that I completely disagree with the policy implications of this legislation, but I will confine my remarks to you just to the financial implications that have brought the bill before you and your colleagues in the Sub-Committee on Transportation and Economic Development.

Briefly, I do not believe this bill should receive any State funding for the following reasons:

- As you know, the State budget is stretched thin enough already and HB 2977 has no reasonable plan for actually accomplishing anything of public need, especially when so many social service needs and our schools are still lacking funding.

- The Legislative Fiscal office has stated it is not possible to determine the fiscal implications of HB 2977 due to lack of precise evidence as to how this policy would operate and who would be affected. In other words, funding this proposal would be a "shot in the dark" with no known potential return on the funds. That is not sound fiscal management.

- HB 2977 provides no clear plan for addressing the alleged problem provided to the substantive policy committee and therefore it has no solid plan for what is to be accomplished and measures by which the Legislature can determine if public money has been effectively and appropriately used. This also is poor fiscal management.

The State has many budget priorities that could serve greater well founded needs than the speculative proposed goals of HB 2977. As a taxpayer and effected stakeholder in the passage of this legislation, I am requesting that HB 2977 not be funded for the stated reasons and unless some clear demonstration that the legislation can accomplish a determinable result for the good of all Oregon taxpayers.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I would appreciate your strong consideration of my suggestion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Bryan Baker

C: Members of the Sub-Committee on Transportation and Economic Development