

WFA: The Workplace Fairness Act Written Testimony Template

Date: February 11, 2019

To: Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

From: Anonymous Victim 9

RE: Anonymous Victim 9 Support for SB 726, The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Workforce Committee:

I support SB 726 which would better protect workers that have faced discrimination in the workplace. I know that current laws don't go far enough to protect harassment victims at work. I support SB 726 because I work for the State of Oregon and in 2015 I was sexually touched and sexually harassed by a lead worker.

In the past, I worked as an office manager at OHSU. On one occasion, I got together outside of work with a colleague in the office, someone I didn't supervise. During that event, he asked to have sex and I refused. After that, he ostracized me, refusing to acknowledge me or speak to me, even when I had business I needed to communicate with him about. He was popular and interacted often with others but subsequently never acknowledged me. Since he worked a few feet from my desk and continued to ignore my presence, work was particularly stressful for me for a year until he went on to graduate school. I didn't mention it to anyone, being confused about any basis for recourse.

Workplace harassment affected every aspect of my life because I was relying on this job to support myself. When you have to go to work and face abuse, it takes away the dignity and respect that we all have the right to feel in the workplace but also takes away the dignity in supporting yourself. I simply wanted to go to work and not face harassment, so that I could put food on the table and live my life without fear.

I respectfully request the committee support SB 726 and commends Sen. Taylor and the committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians from across the state. Furthermore, I commend Vice Chair Knopp for his leadership on this issue. This bill is critical to the workplace safety of all Oregonians.