

WFA: The Workplace Fairness Act Written Testimony Template

Date: February 10, 2019

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

From: Anonymous Victim 3

RE: Anonymous Victim 3 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 have faced harassment in the workplace and when I told my employer, they did nothing to address the workplace culture that lead to my harrassment.

I was sexually harassed by an older man at work for two years. He had been with the organization for 15 years, loved by everyone (in a workplace highly dominated by men) and the "funny guy" that everyone seemed to let things slide with.

The harassment started initially with aggressive flattery followed by "you just remind me of my daughter" and favoritism. It began to escalate to cornering me in work vehicles and grabbing my waist, knees, shoulders and neck. He had candidly taken a picture of me at a company party and a year later showed me and informed me he had sent it to his dad and his best friend, all over the age of 60. While he was known to "like young girls," I was warned to look out for this one individual who hit on all the ladies at work but for some reason it was treated as acceptable.

Eventually one morning he told me about a dream he had where we were in a swimming pool together, I was in my bikini, and we were making out. Disgusted and finally reaching a breaking point I told my boss what was happening and it moved up the ladder to HR quickly. He was forced to resign and the whole event was swept under the rug.

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.