



March 18, 2019

TO: Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
FR: Bob Joondeph, Disability Rights Oregon
RE: HB 3023 and HB 3379

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is the designated Protection and Advocacy program for Oregon. DRO is mandated by federal and state law to advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

From a disability rights perspective, neither HB 3023 nor HB 3379 provide any mandate or guarantee that ride share companies provide an adequate number of accessible vehicles to serve the needs of individuals with disabilities. If the goal of equal access to ride services is to be achieved for people with disabilities, each company must have an adequate number of accessible vehicles that can respond within a reasonable period to a person who needs this service.

HB 3023 says that drivers are not supposed to discriminate against people with disabilities and passengers with a service animal. However, it does not mention any duty of the company to provide an adequate number of accessible vehicles or to honor disability rights in any way.

HB 3379, on the other hand, specifically allows local regulation of a company's provision of equal access by some people with disabilities to its services. It limits that regulation of access to people who have a "physical" disability. The bill does not mention service animals. It also does not guarantee that the local government will set or enforce any antidiscrimination standards. This provision is permissive, not mandatory.

Whether regulation is conducted at the state or local level, ride share companies must be held responsible for providing equal access to its services for all persons with disabilities. The duty of nondiscrimination does not rest on the driver alone. Companies must be directed by law to assure an adequate number of vehicles that are accessible.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.