
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

April 3, 2019

Chairs Manning, Gomberg, and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon respectfully requests the committee's support for SB 5516, the General Fund to Bureau of Labor and Industries for biennial expenses. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is the statewide political voice for Planned Parenthood's two Oregon affiliates and for reproductive health care. PPAO defends the Planned Parenthood mission by advocating for public policy that will enhance and protect reproductive health care. The Bureau of Labor and Industries proposed budget takes critical steps to increase their ability to interact with the public, be responsive and have the staff and resources necessary for Oregonians to know their rights and be able to access information easily. This proposed budget would also improve response to civil rights issues and complaints of discrimination and harassment.

We know how critical access to information for both employees and employers can be when it comes to ensuring Oregonians feel protected from discrimination and to foster safe and fair working environments. The proposed investments from BOLI for website improvements, additional staff for intake and investigation, as well as public records requests will have a big impact on access, transparency and responsiveness. Our state must prioritize the protection of the civil rights of individuals in the work place and create systems that are easily accessible and navigable.

BOLI provides absolutely critical services to all Oregonians who need to be able to access information, file complaints, learn about their rights and gain access to information as workers. If harassment or discrimination occurs in the workplace every Oregonian should know that there is enough staff and that there are adequate resources at BOLI to respond to their questions and concerns.

We support the investment requests made in Commissioner Hoyle's proposed BOLI investment package in SB 5516 and we urge the committee to support these requests as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily McLain
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon