Meyer Stephenson

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<u>Via Email</u> House Committee on Business and Labor

<u>Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4076</u>

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4076. I am a civil rights attorney and I fight for workers who face on-the-job discrimination, including age discrimination.

A recent study from AARP mirrors what I have seen in my law practice – age discrimination is prevalent in our workplaces. Age discrimination in hiring is particularly acute and leaves scores of workers unable to contribute their talents to growth and innovation in their chosen fields. When employees are prematurely excluded from the workplace based on stereotypes and bias, our economic system as a whole suffers.

HB 4076 seeks to explore and evaluate various solutions to this problem. The bill creates a process that includes legislators, advocates, and business representatives and will provide additional support for undertaking the important policy work necessary to ensure that employees of all ages have full and equal access to opportunities in the workplace.

I strongly support the effort to help eliminate workplace discrimination and urge a yes vote on HB 4076.

Sincerely, Christina Stephenson