



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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February 2, 2021

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
Representative Daniel bonham, Vice Chair
Representative Dacia Grayber, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

From: Clayton Jamison, Office Specialist 2, Office of Developmental Disabilities,
ODHS

Re: HB 2151: Establishes Task Force on the State as Model Employer Program for
Employment of People with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Public Hearing, House Business and Labor Committee on February 3, 2021
at 3:15 PM

My name is Clayton Jamison.

In October 2018, I was hired for a part-time job through the State as Model Employer program working as an Office Assistant for the Office of Developmental Disabilities. I was hired to the mail, filing, archiving and assisting coworkers with any tasks.

Instead of the standard interview process, I was hired through a unique process. Vocational Rehabilitation supplied a list of potential applicants to ODDS and I was asked to look at this basic Excel spreadsheet. I figured out that ODDS had an error in the spreadsheet. It also helped that my job coach was there with me during the interview, which was an accommodation that I really appreciated. Being able to show my skills through the spreadsheet, instead of a formal interview where I have to talk about myself, was much better for me.

When I first started, I had a job coach who helped me keep things organize and create task lists. But after a few months, I didn't feel like I needed the job coach anymore and I just relied on my coworkers and my supervisor if I have questions.

Since I was first hired, I was promoted to full-time office assistant working on the ODDS Assessment Unit. Not only have I expanded my technical skills, but I also have been able to develop certain skills, such as public speaking, participating in meetings and attending conferences.

[“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”](#)

I experience autism as well as anxiety. This was my first office job and I once thought the only jobs available to me were janitorial or retail jobs at only one or two hours a week. This program shows that people with developmental disabilities can do much more if they are given the opportunity. Since I started working full-time, I have been able to pay off my car and move out on my own. Working for the state is helping me to become financially self-sufficient and I hope this program is expanded so more people have this opportunity.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Clayton Jamison

For more information please contact:

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