

March 10, 2021

To the attention of the Oregon House Committee on Rules,

My name is Maya Pillon and I am a third year student at Linfield University, a small liberal arts university in McMinnville, OR.

When I was growing up, I was determined to be a professional soccer player. I loved the game, the teamwork, and how it lifted my spirits when I played. It was also something that my dad and I were able to do together. He is the one who introduced me to the US Women's National Soccer Team. Players like Abby Wambach, Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, and Tobin Heath became my idols. I looked up to them. I wanted to be just like them.

As I grew up, my aspirations changed and I was now fully committed to becoming a lawyer. This decision came as a result of my love for the TV series Law and Order and how much I looked up to Abbie Carmichael (played by Angie Harmon). The way she commanded the courtroom and was able to take charge was inspiring. I wanted to be able to do just that, and have the same amount of respect, determination and control, she portrayed on top of knocking all my male counterparts out of the park.

As I am finishing my third year of undergraduate education, I have come to the conclusion that I no longer want to pursue a career in soccer or law. I have discovered that I am very passionate about promoting social justice and researching/analyzing policies to improve social programs. My goal is to help make it easier for every individual to have the same opportunities and support I was fortunate to have growing up.

I support HB 3110 because it will allow women, especially those in marginalized communities, to gain access to a seat at the table. It will make it easier for women to break the glass ceiling in the business world and express their diverse opinions. Having women on corporate boards will also show younger generations that women are able to be in those positions of power.

Representation is important. I was able to formulate my career path based on women I saw all around me. With the passing of HB 3110, a little girl could look at a business magazine and see it filled with women who are successful and who are promoting possibilities for their career paths. Seeing this representation could make the same girl think, "Wow, I want to be just like them," and provide hope and inspiration for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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