

House Committee on Business and Labor
Testimony in Support of HB 2938: Workplace Age Discrimination Task Force

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Grayber and members of the Committee.

I am Mary Pat Silveira, a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, and I strongly support HB 2938.

Both national and Oregon state-specific surveys have found that almost two-thirds of adults over the age of 45 have either experienced age discrimination in the workplace or have witnessed its negative impact on others. Women, in particular, are targeted, and minority women even more so.

We have to ask ourselves, “why?”. Older workers bring many advantages. They are experienced, knowledgeable, settled and generally committed to their jobs and loyal to their employers. They are also in the position of offering leadership, guidance and mentoring to younger workers. Valuing older workers is a win-win for employers.

The Task Force envisaged in HB 2938 provides a well-balanced group with which to consider these important issues. I respectfully request that you give your strong support to the passage of House Bill 2938.

Thank you.

Mary Pat Silveira
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