

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Sosa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3028, which seeks to prohibit employers from requiring employees to use their vacation, sick, or annual leave for time spent serving as an appointed member of a board, commission, council, or committee created by statute.

This bill is crucial for ensuring that dedicated and civic-minded individuals can serve their communities without sacrificing their hard-earned benefits. Requiring employees to use their personal time off for their public service not only creates an undue burden on them but also undermines the importance of their contributions.

Moreover, it also sends a negative message to employees who may be considering serving on these committees. The ability to serve without losing time off promotes greater civic engagement and encourages more citizens to get involved.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support HB 3028. This bill is a step in the right direction for promoting civic engagement, supporting public servants, and creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

Vida, Oregon