



February 14, 2023

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FR: Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Opposition to SB 763

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. For the record, my name is Derek Sangston, Policy Director and Counsel for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 763. While the goal of opening employment opportunities is worthwhile, OBI has significant concerns with SB 763 and opposes it as currently drafted.

Though it bars them from considering an applicant's juvenile records only, OBI is concerned about the challenges SB 763 would create for employers and licensing boards. There are many jobs and licenses that should demand careful screening of applicants to ensure they are the right fit for a job – including those that require the handling of sensitive personal information or the care of vulnerable populations. The mere fact that a crime was committed when the applicant was a juvenile should not be a total bar to considering information that could be relevant to gauging whether the applicant poses a potential risk to the public.

Oregon businesses have long supported efforts to remove barriers to employment for individuals with criminal histories, including juvenile records. Some notable recent efforts from the 2021 session include SB 575, which created an automatic expunction process for certain juvenile records, and SB 397, which broadened the types of convictions eligible for expunction and modified the timeframes for doing so. Those changes have created a process through which many Oregonians will be able to clear their records.

OBI respectfully asks this committee to allow those significant reform efforts to fully take effect before considering a prohibition like that in SB 763.

Thank you for your consideration.

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