



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Boomer Wright
House District 09

February 16, 2023

VIA OLIS

Senate Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you to share some of my concerns that I have regarding SB 517, as well as its twin SB 325.

As introduced, the bill would prohibit a licensing board, commission, or agency from denying, suspending, or revoking occupational or professional licenses solely for those who were convicted of serious crimes as juveniles.

While I do support re-integration of convicts into their new chapter of life, I also strongly believe that the current bill would place an undue burden on professional and occupational licensing boards, commissions, or agencies to do their due diligence.

I am also concerned about the definition of “*qualifying juvenile adjudication*”, which includes serious crimes, such as Rape in the first degree (ORS 163.375), Sodomy in the first degree (ORS 163.405), Sexual abuse in the first degree (ORS 163.427) or even Murder in the first degree (ORS 163.107) and Murder in the second degree (ORS 163.115). In my view, these are incredibly serious crimes, and the Legislature should tread carefully in determining whether it is advisable and appropriate to embark on an expansion of privileges while applying for an occupational or professional licenses.

It is my belief that the current law provides enough flexibility to licensing entities to properly vet their applicants and licensees. The Legislature established occupational licensing boards as it is in the State’s interest to carefully screen and evaluate workforce in certain sensitive fields which deserve special trust and care in order to protect the consumer or client. I am concerned that the proposed bill would dilute this important obligation.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boomer Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Boomer Wright
Member
Oregon House of Representatives

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