

Submitter: Melanie Zermer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB907

My name is Melanie Zermer. I live in HD 19. I support SB 907 for the following reasons:

1. My mother, 6 months from her retirement, was forced to do heavy lifting on a job at JohnsManville in Chicago. She was unable to do it, but with the help of her colleagues - she got through. Refusing the job meant no retirement benefits. Seeing that situation was heartbreaking.
2. The bill does not establish a new program, but clarifies and makes it easier for workers to act on what the legislature wanted in the past - the ability for workers to refuse dangerous work. This bill follows through with the legislature's past commitment and gives workers - who knows what's what - the trust and authority to make decisions that are best for themselves and their colleagues.
3. Many dangerous jobs are disproportionately held by people of color, and I believe the bill is necessary to instill equity in the workplace.
4. And, hurt workers are bad for the economy - hurt workers equate to not enough income for families to pay their bills; increased need for health-services; increased need for social services.

Thank you.

Melanie Zermer

Salem Oregon