



SB 423A Testimony
4/18/23

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Jen Laverdure. I have worked at OHSU for 15 years and currently I am a Business Intelligence trainer. I live in Redmond, OR.

OHSU is a sprawling entity and it does a lot of good in the Portland community and across the state. I came into my current position as a result of the COVID pandemic and it's resounding impact on how OHSU functions. Thousands of OHSU employees became full time remote workers. I filled a gap by quickly developing an online business intelligence training program for our hospital, research and finance missions.

I am testifying in support of SB 423A. About a year ago I attended an AFSCME sponsored lobby day and spoke with Senator Dembrow about the need for holding OHSU executive management accountable in light of the Covington Report findings. The 2021 Covington Report was authored by Eric Holder and his law firm to investigate the alarming number of lawsuits and incidents of racism and sexism occurring at OHSU. Senator Dembrow suggested a bill like SB 423 to help give the staff a voice on the OHSU Board.

Although there are currently three OHSU board seats held by student, faculty and staff, it is at the pleasure of the governor. We need the transparency and accountability that comes with codifying these board seats.

Board representation provides an important check and balance between OHSU and the community at large.

I have found a community of diverse, strong, caring and engaged coworkers at OHSU who are committed to doing their best on the job. That commitment makes OHSU shine. Please vote YES on SB 423 to give that dedicated group of workers a guaranteed voice on the OHSU Board.

Thank you for your consideration,