

Submitter: Jeanine Rieff

On Behalf Of: 643A

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: SB643

April 27, 2023

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Morgan, Vice Chair Nyguen and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business;

This testimony is regarding SB 643 and my support for it.

After watching the House hearing on April 25, 2023 I am moved to write you sharing how this bill would affect my life and other home bakers.

First some clarification. Although they are delicious, we are not suggesting that we want to make and sell tamales. Tamales would not be shelf-stable and would require refrigeration. The products we are allowed to make are shelf-stable and require no refrigeration.

I heard some concern regarding food safety and illness. The state of Oregon requires us to complete our Food Handler's Certification test and pay the fee required by the state. We are required to clean and sanitize our kitchen area before we start prepping our food. Research has shown little evidence that home-bakers' food causes food-borne illness, and as previously stated that day of the hearing, this also comes for an MIT microbiologist. I would imagine your own grandmothers once baked cookies as a "welcome to the neighborhood" gift for the new resident next door. I know I still do and no one has been sick. There are requirements on how to wash and dry our hands. I should buy stock in soap and paper towels!

Labeling on our product is required of us and I take that very seriously in regards to allergens of any kind, ingredients or pets. I have been making gluten-free goods since 2004 when my then 14-year old son was diagnosed with Celiac Disease. This is an intolerance to wheat, barley, oats and rye. It is of utmost importance to not cross-contaminate his food with any of the afore mentioned grains, just as it is important that protection is taken against pet allergens.

This brings to mind the area of allowing pets in the home. I do not have any pets although I have in the past and realize that they are part of the family. Who should have to choose making a living over giving away part of your family? Cleanliness in the kitchen is important and that is why animals should not be allowed in the kitchen once prep starts.

Another concern about safety is ours as home bakers. Using a unique ID number

provides protection for not only us, but for customers. Should there be a health concern for the consumer, the package will have our information for the health authorities to contact and question us. Meantime our home address is not available to the public.

In regard to the selling inside coffee shops, it is clear in my mind that places such as Starbucks is a coffee shop, not a restaurant. Shari's or Denny's are restaurants. There are states that allow the selling of home-made goods in a coffee shop with certain requirements. They are labeled, packaged separately, and stored separately from other companies. With our products having clear and concise labeling of all allergens and that is not made in an inspected food establishment, should not the consumer have a choice to purchase our products with the knowledge of that? It would help our sales to be able to make a living. Which brings me to my last but not least statement in support of bill 643.

Due to the fact that I suffer from multiple rare autoimmune diseases, along with other ailments I am, at times, in a power wheelchair even inside my own home when the need arises. My husband drives me to deliver my goods. Making a GROSS sales limit of the current \$20,000/year is below poverty line. I need to make more than that especially should my husband pass away. I have many people that have asked for my goods to be mailed to them and I tell them I cannot. I would be able to make more money if I could be allowed to mail my shelf-stable products like many other states allow. Though it is still a lower amount than many other states allow as previously testified to, \$50,000 would be better.

Please pass bill 643.

Respectfully,
Jeanine Rieff
Mimi's Home Bakery, LLC
Keizer