

Dear Members of the House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3187. I believe it is vital to our local economies and families to protect all our workers, including our older workers in the public and private sectors. No worker should be barred or dismissed from employment based on birth year. Supporting HB 3187 is one way to protect future older workers from exclusion from viable occupations.

Ten years ago, I personally felt the sting and humiliation of workplace age discrimination. I was “let go” of my position because my age related physical limitations required adaptations and assistance in order to perform my duties. I repeatedly asked my employer for, and was denied support. Ultimately, I was let go with the explanation of “too old to perform duties of the position.” Other biases of race and gender also played a hand in my premature dismissal.

I have been a proud member of Oregon AARP Chapter 5264 for six years and counting. I believe in the work of Oregon AARP and our chapter that advances opportunities to live productive, engaging lives.

Respectfully,
Karen Wells
Portland