

Submitter: Kathy Jensen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3187

Feb. 15, 2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer & Munoz and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB 3187. Let's give older workers a fair shot at employment.

It's time to stop age discrimination and allow older adults the chance to compete for a job on an equal playing field without being screened out before an interview due to graduation or employment dates. This is a "win win" opportunity for workers, the state and ultimately employers too who will discover many outstanding employees who are older adults.

I am a semi-retired RN and I work in a retirement community providing staff education. In this environment, a non-profit facility, older workers are valued and hired for positions including dining services, reception, security, nursing, and caregiving. I have personally benefitted from the expertise of the older workers who have more advanced computer skills than I do, who can relate to the needs of the elders they serve, and from their maturity and work ethic. They are role models and support for the often very young staff.

As Oregonians enjoy longer and healthier lives, they also need the opportunity to be financially independent by not being shut out of opportunities for employment. Social security does not pay the bills. The extra money I earn helps me with large expenses, and allows me to travel to see grandchildren. I am fortunate. For other people, the extra money pays the rent and utility bills.

Let's make Oregon age friendly – and fair. Vote to support HB 3187.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Jensen