

Submitter: Spencer Trumm

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5015

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith,
and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

For the record, my name is Spencer Trumm and I serve as the Legislative Director for Rep. Zach Hudson, who represents Oregon House District 49. I am writing to you as a legislative staffer to urge you to pass House Bill 5015 and fully fund the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

As a legislative staffer, one of duties is to respond to constituent questions and provide constituents with assistance on matters that concern the State and its authority. This includes people seeking accountability and follow-through from other government agencies.

Last year, a veteran constituent contacted our office with questions about his BOLI civil rights complaint. This constituent told us that he had filed a complaint with BOLI after being terminated by a large local employer for his use of the Family & Medical Leave Act. That constituent put his faith in the State. As an Oregon worker, he trusted Oregon's promise to hold employers accountable when they violate Oregon labor law. Yet he came to us because months had gone by without any indication from BOLI as to whether they would pursue his claim or dismiss it.

This constituent has worked hard to engage with the State and the agencies that enforce its laws. Yet more than half a year since he filed his civil rights claim, he has received no decision from BOLI. Thanks to chronic understaffing, the Bureau lacks the capacity to address his claim, along with far too many others.

To defend their rights on the job, workers need a robust BOLI with sufficient staff to process claims in a timely manner. And they need a BOLI with the resources to provide the public with the metrics and outreach that can highlight its efforts to protect workers.

I urge you to pass HB 5015 without delay and to provide this critical agency with the support it needs.

Sincerely,
Spencer Trumm

Legislative Director for Rep. Zach Hudson
House District 49