



Tualatin Chamber of Commerce
8101 SW Nyberg Street #102
Anneleah@Tualatinchamber.com
971-221-9757

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Dear Chair Graybar and Members of the House Labor and Workplace Standards Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2972, WorkSource Reentry, which is designed to enhance workforce services for individuals transitioning out of incarceration. As the CEO of the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, I recognize the profound impact that providing employment opportunities and support services to returning citizens can have, both in reducing recidivism and benefiting our state's economy.

Each year, over 4,000 individuals reenter Oregon communities from state correctional facilities, and with a current recidivism rate of 38.5%, it is evident that meaningful support services are crucial for successful reintegration. Rapid attachment to meaningful employment is significantly correlated with reducing repeat offenses.

HB 2972 addresses this need by connecting returning citizens to employment preparation, training, placement services, and other essential resources, creating pathways to stable and sustainable livelihoods.

I am particularly encouraged by the bipartisan support this bill has received, including chief co-sponsors Senator Lew Frederick, Representative Kevin Mannix, and Representative David Gomberg. This shows a strong, united commitment to improving outcomes for returning citizens.

HB 2972 will not only benefit returning citizens but will also contribute to building stronger, safer communities across our state. This bill represents a critical opportunity for Oregon to support industry's need for talent while simultaneously helping reduce recidivism.

I urge you to support HB 2972 and look forward to seeing this transformative legislation make a meaningful impact on the lives of Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anneleah Jaxen, CEO
Tualatin Chamber of Commerce