

<b>Date:</b>	<b>March 5th, 2025</b>
<b>To:</b>	Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Munoz and Elmer, and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
<b>From:</b>	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Justin Low
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Oppose – HB 2742</b>

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to HB 2742. For the record, my name is Justin Low, and I am a Legislative Affairs Manager offering testimony on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). AOC is a non-partisan member organization that advocates on issues that unite all county governing bodies and have an impact on county functions, governance, budgets, and services.

AOC appreciates the intent behind this legislation and remains firmly committed to fostering inclusive employment practices and promoting opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Sections 4-6 of HB 2742 mirrors federal law by prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities. Our members are already in compliance and have no objections to Sections 4-6 of this bill.

However, we respectfully oppose the provisions added in Sections 7-8 of the bill that would require contracting agencies to take “affirmative action” to “establish and execute a plan for outreach, recruitment and retention of persons with disabilities to perform work on public improvement projects.”

While the goal of the new provision is laudable, the bill lacks any financial and administrative support necessary to implement the legislation. This new administrative program could inadvertently divert resources away from critical county services; and resource-strained counties, in particular, might struggle to design and maintain these programs.

In closing, we respectfully request that the Committee consider exempting local governments from Section 7-8 of the bill, or adding language specifying how the state will appropriate funds for these new programs.

Best,

Justin Low  
Legislative Affairs Manager for Governance and Revenue