

Submitter: Jani Turner  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3881

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Elmer and Muñoz and Members of the House Labor and Workplace Standards Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3881. My name is Jani Turner, and though I work for the Oregon & Southern Idaho Laborers-Employers Training Trust, I am providing testimony from my personal experience.

I am a mother, wife, and a Union Laborer. I journeyed out while working on the Grant High School project, which was one of my favorite projects to-date. My husband and I met in our addiction, found recovery (over 10 years), and we both successfully completed the LiUNA Construction Craft Laborers Apprenticeship program. Coincidentally, we both also worked on the Grant High School project at different times. Being an apprentice changed my life in many ways, and allowed my family to purchase a house and begin creating generational wealth. My husband has an extensive criminal record, yet found success through apprenticeship. He will be able to retire with dignity, and understands now that he is not his past. Projects like Grant High School provide living wages to people of all backgrounds and skill levels. Apprenticeship requirements would offer this kind of hope to the next person who, otherwise, might not have any. Skilled Trades are an open door for people to earn good wages, health benefits, and upward mobility.

That last one is why I'm speaking up about HB 3881. Apprenticeships are key to learning a craft- but they are more than that. My apprenticeship taught me leadership skills, strengthened my self-worth, and provided me a path to move up. I became an Apprenticeship Coordinator for LiUNA four years ago. I was a cashier at Walmart before I became a Laborer. I probably made more as an apprentice than my manager did at Walmart- and I have benefits and a retirement package. Now I get to provide this opportunity to others.

I strongly support HB 3881 because it will provide more of these opportunities to members of our community, ultimately lifting the community up along with the individual. When a person thrives, their community thrives. I love going to Grant High School to talk about the Trades and Apprenticeship. I get to tell stories of the project and admire the work of my crew. It is a beautiful school, and a testament to the lifelong skills that a person can learn when given the opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration.