

Press Release

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House Votes to Strengthen Sexual Harassment Protections in Public Contracting

SALEM – Oregon House Democrats are continuing to protect the rights of working Oregonians, today passing <u>House Bill 3060</u>, which is aimed at strengthening protections against sexual harassment in public contracting.

HB 3060 prohibits the state from entering into public contracts with businesses that do not have a policy and practice of preventing sexual harassment, sexual assault and discrimination against members of protected classes.

Rep. Ann Lininger (D-Lake Oswego) is a co-chief sponsor of the bill and carried it on the floor today.

"This bill helps prevent workplace harassment and discrimination and sends the clear message that Oregon chooses to do business with companies that protect their workers," Rep. Lininger said. "We owe it to the people of Oregon to ensure that those who do business with the state foster a safe and healthy work environment for their employees."

Nationally, one in four women has reported workplace sexual harassment, and according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 35 percent of LGBT individuals have experienced workplace harassment.

Joining Lininger as chief sponsor on the bill are Rep. Rob Nosse (D-Portland), Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland), Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn) and Rep. Karin Power (D-Milwaukie).

"This bill is just common sense," Rep. Sanchez said. "The number of people who report discrimination and harassment in their workplaces across sectors is staggering. This bill ensures that the policies that keep state workers safe and protected will now extend to those doing business with the state."

The bill which passed off the floor with a vote of 53-5 now heads to the Oregon Senate for consideration.