

TRAVIS E. NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 44



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 22, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on Senate Bill 5515A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted no on Senate Bill 5515A because I was disappointed that the Bureau of Labor and Industries did not receive more funding to investigate workplace discrimination complaints. The Civil Rights Division needs \$2.9 Million in one time funding to clear the backlog of 1,300 discrimination cases. The budget in SB 5515A does not adequately staff that division. People who file discrimination complaints deserve to have their complaints addressed promptly by investigators who have the time and capacity to fully address the complaint. As a legislature and state, we say that we strive for a more equitable Oregon. However, our budgets and stated priorities often don't match the rhetoric on equity.

Sincerely,

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland

