



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Salem, Oregon
Oregon State Legislature

PRESS RELEASE

June 7, 2021

CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Democrats Pass Bill to Provide Oregonians Protection Against Discrimination Based on Gender Identity

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate passed House Bill 3041. The bill differentiates “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in Oregon law, recognizing the importance of these two independent aspects of an individual’s personhood.

“Over the years, many people have come to this floor and emphasized the fact that language matters. House Bill 3041 is another example of that truth,” said Senator Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton) who carried the bill. “A person’s gender identity is not the same as a person’s sexual orientation. There are nuances and distinct differences in these definitions, and our laws should acknowledge that fact.”

In 2006, the Governor established the Taskforce on Equality which sought to ensure Oregonians are protected from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation and other opportunities. Recommendations from that task force included that public policy should prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. In 2007, Oregon enacted Senate Bill 2, the Oregon Equality Act, a law that disallows discrimination based on sexual orientation.

House Bill 3041 adds “gender identity” to all statutes that reference “sexual orientation” to provide clarity and ensure transgender, gender fluid and gender nonconforming individuals are represented in Oregon Law and explicitly protected against discrimination.

“Modernizing language in Oregon law is critical and it’s meaningful. As an attorney, I know the importance of removing ambiguities in legal definitions. I also know the importance of accurate words, which are representative of lived experiences, so we can learn, adapt and ensure justice,” added Senator Lieber.

House Bill 3041 passed 21-8 in the Oregon Senate, it now goes the House of Representatives for concurrence and then to Governor Kate Brown for her signature.

###