



BOLI COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE
SPECIAL EDITION – JUNE 30, 2009
BOLI receives budget restorations to cap successful legislative session

Friends,

Last night the Oregon legislature closed this year's legislative session and adjourned, sine die at 9:45 p.m. Although it was quite tumultuous given the state of Oregon's economy and the necessitated budget cuts for BOLI and other agencies, the session was also quite productive and not without a few last-minute surprises.

The biggest surprise for BOLI came yesterday, the last day of session. **The end-of-session appropriations bill, also known to as the "Christmas tree" bill, included significant budget restorations for BOLI.** A little over \$1 million (of the \$1.3 million previously cut from BOLI) was restored to BOLI's budget in HB 5054. In making these restorations to our budget, the legislature showed an overwhelming commitment to BOLI's core mission and to protecting civil rights enforcement in Oregon.

The restoration package includes funding for nine positions: three civil rights investigators in our Civil Rights Division; two Technical Assistance for Employers program positions; two Wage & Hour Division compliance specialists; one apprenticeship representative in our Apprenticeship & Training Division; and one information systems specialist.

From fighting discrimination to protecting employment rights, and from advancing employment opportunities to protecting equal access to housing and public accommodations, **these restorations will bolster BOLI's ability to provide strong civil rights enforcement, wage and hour compliance, apprenticeship representation, and to provide technical assistance services to Oregon employers.**

At the same time, the legislature's adjournment meant the end of a very productive and busy legislative session for BOLI, in which we worked to:

- Enhance civil rights protections and leave provisions for service member and crime victims (HB 3256, HB 2744 & SB 968);
- Protect Oregon's prevailing wage law and fight a substantial roll-back of prevailing wage law (HB 2430);
- Expand protections for disabled Oregonians in the workplace and adopt the stronger provisions in the new ADA passed by the 110th Congress (SB 874);
- Protect Oregonians from housing discrimination (SB 875); and
- Pass an additional nine BOLI-sponsored bills by wide, bipartisan margins.

In addition, a number of bills passed this session that will impact the work we do at BOLI and the laws we enforce. For a complete list of legislative changes related to labor and employment law, [click here](#). To view changes to Prevailing Wage Law, [click here](#).

The overwhelming support for our agenda, and the substantial budget restoration package, demonstrate the legislature's confidence in the quality of our work as well as a strong commitment to advancing our core mission: protecting civil rights and fighting for Oregon's workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Avakian". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Brad Avakian
State Labor Commissioner