

Testimony neither in support nor against LD 827, An Act to Allow Employees to Request Flexible Work Schedules

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, Members of the Committee:

My name is Geoff Baur. I am the Vice President of Tax and Government Relations at IDEXX Laboratories and reside in Portland. I am submitting testimony on behalf of IDEXX neither in support nor against LD 827.

IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. is focused on developing work location policies that benefit IDEXX, our employees and our customers. On a world-wide basis we have employees working within numerous arrangements. In many of the situations, the optimal work arrangement is clear. For example, production employees by necessity must be on location, while our Veterinary Diagnostic Consultants often work entirely remote. However, for many of our employees the answer is less clear, and we have developed a successful process that allows us to work with our employees to determine the best answer that works for all.

Given our experiences, we would request that the committee consider that this legislation may remove some of the flexibility enjoyed by IDEXX and our employees. As written this law and its 6-month commitment could force employers to reject requests in situations where both the employer and employee might benefit from experimental work arrangements over a shorter period of time. It has been our experience that transparency and dialogue with our employees, along with an openness to experiment with various conditions has led to the best answers for IDEXX and our employees.

Thank you, and I appreciate your consideration.