



# Oregon

Bureau of Labor and Industries

Val Hoyle  
Commissioner

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Statement from BOLI Commissioner Val Hoyle in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2019:**

*“And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be.” — Dr. Martin Luther King, 1968*

Today, as we celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we are at a crossroads as to whether or not we as Americans can move forward and do the work necessary to ensure that America is all that it ought to be.

When Dr. King was assassinated, he was in Memphis, Tennessee, to support and march with sanitation workers -- public employees -- in their fight for fair wages, freedom from discrimination and the right to form a union. He understood that labor rights are human rights and that you cannot say you support the advancement civil rights without supporting workers, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Today I will be joining many other Lane County residents in marching to remember the legacy of Dr. King. And for the rest of the time I have the privilege of serving as Oregon’s Labor Commissioner, overseeing the agency responsible for protecting civil and workplace rights of all Oregonians, I will remember his sacrifice and what he lived for.