

HB 2548



OREGON AFSCME

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Good afternoon, for the record my name is Sean McCabe and I am here representing AFSCME Local 88, I work as a pre trial release officer for Multnomah County and have done this job for 19 years,

Oregon is unique in that we do not allow private for profit Bail Bonds operations. This change was made long before I began my current position. This was a conscious decision by Judges, the Defense Bar, Prosecutors and the Legislature. The decision, as I understand it was one that was made to end criminal activity and unethical behavior related to the legal release of offenders while awaiting formal charges and trial. This was another of the risky and progressive moves that made Oregon an example of equal treatment under the law – one that has paid off in many ways.

First, any funds collected for bail under our current system allow for the payments of back child support, unpaid fines and other legally obligated fees owed by the defendant. Second, we treat every person the same. We run criminal risk assessments on every individual prior to any bail hearings so that the Court has a clear idea as to what and who they are dealing with and what the risks are.

Commercial bail bond companies will not have access to the information we have available nor should they. They will clamor over the easy cases and low hanging fruit so to speak. Taking the low risk, non violent and easy to manage offenders leaving Oregon's 36 counties with the offenders too poor to make bail. This is just bad policy and bad practices. The influence of Bail for Profit will create unequal justice in practical terms.

These Commercial for profit operations want you to think they are just "one more tool" for the justice system. I beg to differ...if they take all the easy cases, all the profits then what is left? All the liability, none of the funds we send to child support cases, and not much for the victims and no more help to the courts and criminal justice system.

HB 2548 if passed will eliminate the family wage jobs of people like me all over Oregon. Clearly we have a keen interest in protecting our jobs for the future. But more than that, each of us takes pride in being a part of the criminal justice system. We take pride in working to do our best for the safety and security of Oregonians while also treating every offender equally regardless of their economic status. Thank you,