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May 14, 2013

Dear Senator:

Please vote yes on HB 2672-B.

HB 2672-B is a moderate approach to a real problem. Domestic workers, people employed in the service of a person or family, are often denied the same rights that we take for granted in other work settings. They are denied overtime compensation. They are not allowed days off to take care of personal needs. They are asked to go without sleep to ensure their employers do get sufficient rest.

These workers need basic protections to ensure that they are treated with respect and do not have to sacrifice their own time and their families to earn a paycheck helping to free up someone else's time and care for their employer's family.

The proposals in HB 2672-B are modest, and are scaled back from the original bill. The workers it would affect are limited – those who are employees, not independent contractors who work for multiple clients, and those who provide specific services for private individuals that are much more narrowly defined than the services included in similar proposals in other states. And the penalties for employers who violate the law are modest.

Much of the dissention around HB 2672-B will center on hypothetical situations. In each situation a reasonable solution could be achieved that is fair to both the worker and the employer under this bill. And in each situation an examination of the current conditions faced by domestic workers in Oregon proves the necessity of this bill.

I encourage your support for all workers in Oregon, and your vote in favor of HB 2672-B.

Sincerely,

Tom Chamberlain
President, Oregon AFL-CIO