

SCHUCK LAW, LLC

Attorneys at Law

10013 NE Hazel Dell Avenue #178 • Vancouver, WA 98685

Telephone (360) 566-9243 • Fax (503) 575-2763

DAVID A. SCHUCK, Partner

E-MAIL: dschuck@wageclaim.org

WEBSITE: www.wageclaim.org

* Oregon License OSB 993564

* Washington License WSB 37285

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Senator Dembrow, Chair
Senator Thatcher, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 718

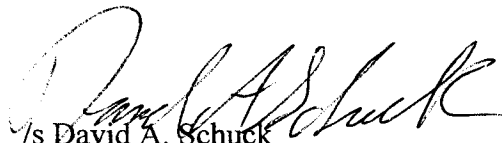
My firm, Schuck Law, LLC, primarily represents Oregon employees in wage disputes with their employers. For approximately 15 years, I have focused my practice on protecting the rights of workers.

In Oregon, overtime, minimum wage, or wrongful deduction claims carry the additional risk that the employee will be required to pay the prevailing employer's attorney fees should the wage claim be lost. This is unusual. Other provisions of Oregon wage and hour law, Oregon civil rights law, and federal wage and hour and civil rights laws do not put this risk on vulnerable workers. In typical, fairly straight-forward cases, I would anticipate defense attorney fees to range between \$10,000 and \$50,000. However, where the claims are aggressively fought, they can easily double and triple these amounts.

I and the other attorneys at Schuck Law are careful to explain this risk to our clients. Many of these clients choose not to pursue valid claims for overtime, minimum wage, or wrongful deduction claims for this reason. Even when I think their case is strong, the possibility of having to pay such a large sum of money discourages workers from trying to enforce their rights.

Please support SB 718, which corrects this problem and puts Oregon law in line with federal minimum wage and overtime provisions.

Thank you,


/s David A. Schuck
David A. Schuck