

Dear Committee Members:

I am submitting this testimony in favor of the above bill:

The scriptures are clear "Thou shalt not steal". Sadly some employers violate this most basic of moral principles - they steal from their workers by failing to pay them the wages they have earned. Experts call it a national epidemic!

Wage theft occurs when employers pay workers less than the minimum wage, don't pay time-and-a-half for overtime hours, cheat on the number of hours worked, steal tips, or don't pay workers at all. It typically victimizes those who can least afford it: the lowest-paid workers. These workers are struggling to survive, so they often stay silent for fear of losing their jobs.

You have an opportunity this session to put in place stronger protections for workers, so that they get paid what they have earned. As a person of faith (I am a Catholic, and a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul) I support the Fair Wage Recovery Act. This legislation will protect Oregon's working families. I urge you to support SB718/HB3038 - The Fair Wage Recovery Act.

Sincerely
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