

**Testimony in Support of SB 552
Senate Workforce Committee
Cristina Castro
cristinaoregon@gmail.com**

Chair Dembrow, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 552, which will provide much needed workplace protections for domestic workers.

My name is Cristina Castro, I am originally from Argentina and I am a long time Oregon resident. I currently live in Keizer, Oregon.

In my work history, I've held multiple domestic work jobs, from being a nanny to cleaning houses. Due to the short time I will share only of one of my many experiences as a domestic worker.

Not too long ago, I took a position as a live-in caregiver for an 86 year-old gentleman.

I performed chores on a daily basis like: cleaning, cooking, laundry, companionship and, sometimes trips to doctor's appointments, and the grocery store.

I took care of him 7 days a week, and stayed at his house. The main reason for hiring me was that this person needed someone to take care of him at home at night. I had a "monitor" in my bedroom in case help was needed.

To do this job, I was paid \$200 a month, for one year. That amounts to \$1.25 an hour, if you're working a regular 40-hour week. However, I worked an average of 10 hours/day, 7 days a week, so I was paid much less than \$1.25/hour, and was never paid for overtime. By comparison, minimum wage in Oregon right now is \$9.25.

I needed the income in a very difficult time and I did ^{my job} it to the best of my ability. But this kind of job requires a lot of emotional and physical energy, irregular work hours, patience and honesty at all levels.

Domestic workers like me should have more protections to ensure that we are getting paid fairly and treated fairly, just like any other worker. SB 552 will help make that happen.

Thank you for your time, I urge your support of SB 552.