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Testimony in Support of House Bill 2010 and House Bill 3377
House Committee on Business and Labor

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2010 and House Bill 3377 this morning.

Working Oregonians, especially those with young children, face unique challenges as they balance responsibilities at home and at work. Unfortunately, that balance can become difficult or impossible to strike for hourly wage earners who are dealing with unpredictable schedules and unstable pay.

The bills before you today are designed to create basic fairness in work scheduling, with the goal of improving how employee schedules are managed and shared in order to empower hourly employees with the ability to reasonably predict their pay and plan their lives.

For instance, a single parent who works multiple jobs to make ends meet should know if her shift is being canceled before arranging childcare and heading into work.

Consistent access to quality, affordable child care is important for the success of both the parent and the child. In my work to improve the Employment Related Day Care Program so this vital program supports working parents better, it has become abundantly clear to me that unpredictable schedules and erratic pay checks make it incredibly difficult for parents to juggle their responsibilities and make ends meet.

When parents have work schedules that are subject to frequent changes with little notice, they face a significant barrier to their ability to plan for quality, affordable, consistent child care – and their children suffer as a result.

The reality is that unfair scheduling practices can have long-term, negative consequences on working families' economic security, health, and children's well-being.

House Bills 2010 and 3377 begin an important conversation about fair scheduling practices. I support the effort to work toward solutions that provide both workers and employers with the certainty they need to be successful. I encourage the chair to convene a work group to dig into the details and make progress on this important issue.

Thank you.