

Chair and Members of the Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees,

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I went back to school after my children were grown so that I would be able to get a job that would provide an adequate income. Having a degree does not guarantee employment that pays enough to actually live on. As the sole support of a household, I have worked at jobs where I was paid minimum wage. I remember applying for food stamps, juggling money as I tried to decide which bill got paid this pay day, getting a box of food from the local food bank so there would be food to eat when the food stamps ran out, and even calling local churches to help me with money for utilities. There was never enough money to pay for everything at one time. There were times I worked two or three part time jobs plus a full time job to make enough money to get by. At the end of one year I had five W-2's for filing taxes. It isn't reasonable that anyone should have to work full time and live in poverty.

Susan Hardy
Oakridge, OR