

AFT-Oregon Testimony in Support of SB 1587

The American Federation of Teachers-Oregon (AFT-Oregon) represents over 15,000 members across Oregon. Our members work in the private and public sectors in elementary and high schools, child care centers, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities.

AFT-Oregon would like to thank you for your consideration of SB 1587 to stop wage theft in Oregon. Wage theft happens to workers in all industries. For AFT-Oregon members wage theft can be seen in the adjunct professor who holds office hours without getting paid, or the school employee who works uncompensated overtime. Wage theft makes it tough for Oregon families to get ahead.

SB 1587 gives workers more tools to uncover employer wrongdoing by making sure we have access to wage and hour records that include pay stubs. State agencies are understaffed and often overwhelmed, so they can only reach a portion of the many cases of wage theft in Oregon. That is why the limited private right of action that is in this bill is a critical component of the effort to stop wage theft. Additionally the legislation strengthens enforcement and accountability and provides state agencies with additional tools and resources to enforce existing laws and to hold offenders accountable.

On behalf of the 15,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers – Oregon we urge you to support Oregon’s working families by supporting SB 1587.