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Here is the testimony I would to give to the House Committee on Business and Labor re: SB 1532A on February 15, 2016 at 5:30 PM.

Good Evening, and thank you Chair Holvey and members of the committee for welcoming public testimony on this important subject. I am Bob Hollander from Pleasant Hill, Oregon. I speak to you in favor of SB 1532A.

I come with a professional perspective of having been a high school teacher and middle school teacher for 19 years. During that time I had students who were homeless or whose families struggled with such difficult situations that school seemed totally irrelevant.

I am now a recently retired independent financial advisor. So for the past 22 years I have run a small business. I know how changing mandates regarding employment and taxes concerns employers. I was such an employer.

SB 1532 does an amazing job of recognizing that a living wage is different in various parts of the state, and it crafts a way to implement an important adjustment.

It also recognizes that the lowest wage earners need to see a modest increase in their wage level to achieve a living wage that can provide dignity wherever they live.

Finally, this bill's approach is crafted in such a manner that most businesses, agencies and institutions should be able to adjust to its requirements without undue hardship.

Thank you for being our representatives and being responsive to us all.

Bob Hollander