

SB 1552

*From the desk of  
Rep. Betty Komp*

**Fidel, 65, Woodburn  
House District 22  
Nursery Worker**

My name is Fidel, I am 65 years old, and I live in Woodburn. I currently work at a nursery, where I work a lot of hours for very low wages. I earn about \$300 a week, but I don't know my hourly wage because it is not printed on my pay stub.

I haven't gotten a raise in the many years I have worked at the nursery. I have also worked as a farmworker picking blueberries and raspberries in the mornings and worked at a cannery on evenings. Even with two jobs, I have struggled in the past to pay for rent, and I didn't qualify for affordable housing.

Today, I am proud to say I am a homeowner. But I can only pay for my bills because my 5 children are grown up and are helping me with the mortgage, insurance, gas, water, phone and garbage bills. It was a real struggle to pay for everything when my children were younger and often relied on yard sales and second-hand clothing stores to clothe my children.

I remember going to pick in the hot sun, rain, and mud, and being scratched by the blackberry thorn everyday, but never being able to work enough to make enough to go out to eat or buy a nice set of clothes. I need a raise.

*From the desk of  
Rep. Betty Komp*

SB 1532