

To: House Business and Labor
Re: Support of HB 2193
Date: March 6th, 2017

Written Testimony for Iris Hodge on Behalf of Main Street Alliance of Oregon

Fair Work Week Hearing

Good Afternoon Chairman Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of HB 2193 on behalf of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon. My name is Iris Hodge. I am the Outreach Coordinator for Main Street Alliance of Oregon. Main Street Alliance is a network of over 3,500 small business owners who believe that fair and flexible scheduling is good for our businesses. I have submitted written testimony from two of our members, Shaun Sieren and Kelsey Denogeon, who support HB 2193. They could not be here today because they are busy running their businesses, but they wanted to share their stories with you.

Some large corporation-dominated business groups will tell you that fair scheduling practices are bad for business, but overwhelmingly, the businesses surveyed by Main Street Alliance over the last year believe that unfair scheduling practices like unpredictable schedules actually harm small businesses by creating a huge amount of economic insecurity, which weakens consumer demand, and, in turn, hurts their bottom-line. If customers don't know if they will have enough money at the end of the week to purchase an oil change, a cup of coffee, or a meal out with their family, Main Street businesses suffer.

Our members know that their employees are their neighbors' customers and visa-versa, so when everyone's employees have predictable hours, this boosts consumer confidence. That's one piece of building a sustainable economy, along with fair wages and the ability to take time off to care for sick family members. Everyone deserves time to plan for child care, medical visits, or time with loved ones.

Lastly, Main Street Alliance members believe that fairer work weeks for employees in Oregon would level the playing field for small businesses. After all, most small business owners already

have these kinds of practices in place. A Fair Work Week policy would create a common sense workplace standard, raising the floor for some big box stores in Oregon that rely on treating their employees unfairly to make a profit. Fair and flexible scheduling helps small business owners give their workers the respect they deserve to feel valued and sends a clear signal that investing in employees' health and wellbeing is an investment in their business.

Main Street Alliance of Oregon and its members support fair and flexible scheduling and so we urge you to support HB 2193, as well.

Sincerely,
Iris Hodge
Outreach Coordinator MSAO