

My name is James Douglas and I'm a General Journeyman Electrician. I'm here to testify in support of House Bill 2544. I have been in the electrical trade for many years. I have done a lot of electrical contracting work in Commercial and Industrial, but I mostly do Residential. My job occasionally requires me to travel, sometimes 2 to 3 days at a time. My wife has had major medical issues for the last 10 years that require me to miss a lot of work. Now she needs Full time care which we cannot afford. My best option is to start my own business so I can set my own schedule to attend to my wife without causing my employer scheduling issues. House Bill 2544 will help me start my business by allowing me to hire a part-time signing supervisor which will allow me to spend more time with my wife.

For now, my employer has been letting me take off the time I need to take care of my wife. So I would need to employ a supervisor to sign for me. I would need at least \$20,000.00 to get started with my business. Not including, losing my Health Insurance for my wife and I. Then, on top of all that, I have to pay a Full time signing supervisor before I can even pay myself to be compliant with administrative rules. House Bill 2544 would make starting a business here in Oregon a lot less stressful and give me a much better chance of being successful.