



OREGON WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

VOTE YOUR VALUES

OPPOSITION TO HB 4093 (ELIMINATION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS)

TO: Members of the State Senate
FROM: Oregon Working Families Party
DATE: February 22, 2018
RE: HB 4093

House Bill 4093, relating to amateur athletes and targeting players of the Portland Winterhawks, represents a dangerous step backward for workers' rights. It exempts these players from pathways that are currently available to workers in their positions.

The bill would:

- Remove a time-tested avenue that workers are able to use in order to challenge their employment status in order to gain wage and hour protections, **and**
- Exempt these workers from workers compensation protections, which is particularly concerning in a sport with a comparatively large injury rate.

We understand the rationale behind some of this measure's support stems from the promise of additional economic activity. However, this fact sets a terrible precedent in that it signals that Oregon's workers' rights are actively for sale. The protections that current law provides to our workers — whether they are paid a regular paycheck or perform to someone's benefit for the promise of food, lodging, and opportunity — must be regarded as more than just a bargaining chip for larger considerations if they are to be in any way meaningful to Oregon's workforce.

The Oregon Working Families Party strongly requests that HB 4093 not move forward.