

Testimony in Opposition of HB 3023

Chair Barker and members of the Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Clarissa Buchholz, and I have been driving for Lyft for 1 year. I started driving last spring to supplement my income from my full time job as a teacher and help me with car and insurance payments. Although it helps me pay the bills, I also have a number of concerns I would like to see addressed. I'm writing to tell you about my experiences as a driver for Transportation Network Companies and to urge you to vote no on HB 3023.

My biggest concern as a driver is the issue of driver safety and rights when it comes to working with riders. As a young woman I felt unsafe on multiple occasions when male riders, who were typically intoxicated, have made inappropriate comments or have tried contacting me through the lyft app after the ride. I have also had requests from riders to make special trips to pick something up from the store, or go off the route that was initially requested. Due to the loose structure of how drivers interact with the company, I found it hard to easily report these situations and I didn't feel accurately trained to deal with these situations.

There are a lot of other compensation issues that made driving for lyft less than ideal. This includes not being compensated for waiting time in between rides or when we are driving around looking for another passenger. I also had multiple instances where I would drop off a rider in a suburb around rush hour, and after I dropped them off I would have to drive back into a more high demand area in traffic without being compensated. Unfortunately you don't get many ride requests when you are in traffic on a busy highway so this was always a big waste of gas and time that isn't covered by lyft.

Because of all these issues we have been trying to get a drivers' board in Portland. Hundreds of drivers have spoken up about their concerns. By passing this bill our work would be undermined and voices of many drivers would be ignored.

Please consider my experiences and the experiences of other drivers in Portland when making your decision to vote for this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Clarissa Buchholz