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TO: Co-Chair Manning  
Co-Chair Gomberg  
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation  
and Economic Development

FR: Jessica Giannettino Villatoro, Political Director, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support for SB 5516

April 1, 2019

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents over 300,000 working Oregonians across the state and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 5516, the Bureau of Labor and Industry's Budget.

The Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) provides workers with critical services when they have concerns about their civil rights, wage and hour, apprenticeship or prevailing wage protections. In the cases of wage enforcement, the expedient recovery of wages earned means that workers won't have to skip paying their rent or putting food on the table for their family. SB 5516 accomplishes this by increasing the bureau's capacity to process timely wage security fund, with the addition on one accountant position.

SB 5516 also allocates funds for two new positions for the civil rights division. Workers throughout the state should rest assured knowing that if they face discrimination or harassment on the job that BOLI will have the resources to investigate and remedy the situation. This bill brings us one step closer to ensuring that is the case by adding one intake coordinator and one investigator to the civil rights division.

As Oregon's economy continues to grow, the need for a properly funded Bureau of Labor and Industries is vital to ensure that workers and employers know their rights and responsibilities. We respectfully request the committee to support SB 5516 and start to ensure that the agency's budget can catch up with the number of Oregonians it serves.