



## **HB 3262 – Taxpayer Reimbursement Act**

Testimony for House Committee On Health Care – Robert Sisk – 3.28.2019

Tax Fairness Oregon supports, as should all Oregonians, a long overdue effort to hold big companies accountable for the incredible burden these industries place on the state budget when their low-wage workers must rely on public assistance in order for their families to survive.

This form of corporate welfare through tax payer subsidies not only deprives vital programs, such as education, senior services and healthcare, from adequate funding, it strains the social safety net to the point of breaking. Across the country, some of this public assistance to employees of large corporations – such a Walmart – has been in the billions of dollars.

But, it is a practice that has gone unchallenged for years while some of these companies make record profits with executive compensation in the millions of dollars. Meanwhile, without public assistance – when they can get it – their frontline employees would struggle to put food on the table and have access to even the most basic healthcare. To add to the egregiousness of this practice, many of these companies are actually major corporations – such as Walmart, McDonald’s and Amazon – with headquarters out of state.

It is time once again for Oregon to stand up as a leader of the nation and send a strong message – and a promise – to these companies: you have an obligation to your employees for their welfare and it if it is sloughed off on the taxpayers of this state – you will be assessed for the cost of public assistance your employees and their families are forced to rely on in lieu of a living wage.

Oregonians should not turn their backs on those who are in need and will not. And these companies should not be making part of their profits from the underpayment of their employees – and on the backs of Oregon taxpayers.

***We read the bills and follow the money***