



*Going Places. Going Strong.*

May 30, 2019

To: Members of the State of Oregon Revenue Committee

Cc: Speaker, Rep. Tina Kotek

From Shari Dunn, Executive Director Dress for Success of Oregon, Inc.

Dress for Success of Oregon, Inc. is submitting this letter in support of HB 3023A. Dress for Success of Oregon, Inc. (DFSO) and the clients we serve have benefited significantly from the rideshare programs, specifically our partnership with Uber. For our experience we can say that low income communities in all areas of the state should have access to the benefits of rideshare technology

In 2017 Uber reached out to us about their Community Impact Initiative (CII) to help non-profits in the Pacific Northwest. In 2018 we received \$10,000 in ride credits for the use of our clients. This was game changing for us and our clients. Specifically we used those ride credits to help low-income and women of color from the East County, where we have an intake office, reach our main office in NE Portland and our job coaching programs in Beaverton. Additionally these ride credits were used by clients in Clackamas, and other outlying areas to reach our services and job interviews. What we can say is that, while we provide bus tickets and other transportation reimbursement, the impact that Uber has had goes well beyond that.

Our clients are majority low-income women, 73% receive some form of public assistance, over 35% people of color and 64% single moms. For these groups mobility is very complicated. While for young single people in Portland it might be fine to take the Max to the bus, or bike, that is not realistic for an adult single mother who can spend up to an hour or more coming from the East County or Clackamas. She may have to drop children off, get back on public transportation, get here, get the clothes home or get to a job interview. Portland has a robust public transit system but as it currently stands it is **not** truly accessible to people like our clients. The ability to offer this support from Uber has significantly increased the number of clients we see from the East County and outlying areas. The Portland Business Alliance in its February 2019, **Annual Economic Check-up**, that focused on the East County, found disparities in jobs, housing, transportation and work-life balance compared to the rest of the region.

Uber has had an incredibly positive impact on our clients. They have been able to get to job interviews, without waiting in the rain and get back home in time to pick up their children. Uber allows our clients to make a stop coming and going, allowing them to pick up kids, which for our moms is vital. Uber has helped clients get to our technology program, Talentpath, which saw its first graduate this year, she will begin a job making over \$50,000. Many of our clients also drive for Uber which allows them as mothers to set their hours and work around their children's schedules, this is a flexible bridge back into the full-time workforce and helped them work around school or other trainings to advance their education and skills.

From a racial and gender equity perspective we feel Uber has moved our clients forward. A recent [Harvard study](#) found the single strongest factor in determining economic mobility was commuting time. "A lack of transportation options can keep a struggling community treading water." While the City has wonderful aspirational goals, our clients need help now, the type of



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help Uber has been providing to our clients since 2018. This is what our clients have to say about the program:

*Alyssa worked with DFSSO to schedule a ride to her job interview. She wrote to us that "since I didn't have to worry about transferring buses in the rain, I was able to stay calm and prep for the interview. It definitely was a lifesaver – I GOT THE JOB!" Another client, Diana, was glad to be able to access transportation home more comfortably after her appointment at Dress for Success: "it was really helpful to have a ride home after my appointment so I didn't have to take shopping bags on the bus!" Amber, who is now in her technology apprenticeship was able to take Uber to trainings and meeting of her cohort.*

For these reasons, Dress for Success of Oregon, Inc. supports HB 3023A. The legislature should make rideshare an option to low-income communities all throughout Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Shari Dunn  
Executive Director  
Dress for Success of Oregon, Inc.