



February 3, 2020

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 4087**  
Increasing Unpaid Wage Reimbursement for Workers  
Submitted by Courtney Helstein on behalf of Family Forward Oregon

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee -

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4089. Family Forward Oregon is committed to advancing policies that support women and families and help them succeed economically. We support HB 4087 and the effort to that workers that are owed unpaid wages can be compensated in a timely manner that will not cause further economic insecurity.

Under our current system, workers can file claims with the Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) for unpaid wages though it can take up to a year after a claim is finalized for workers to get paid, placing sometimes severe financial strain on working families.

This issue is can be compounded for women in particular as their family financial responsibilities continue to rise. More than half of women are the primary breadwinner in their household; 30 percent are married breadwinners who are generating more than half their household income.<sup>1</sup> Going without wages they have rightfully earned can place women and families in dire financial strain.

By making some modest changes to the Wage Security Fund and to where a limited number of civil penalties are directed, HB 4087 can ensure that workers whose employers refuse to pay verified claims receive the wages they are owed. Thank you for your time and consideration and **we strongly encourage your support for HB 4087.**

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<sup>1</sup> 2018 Financial Wellness Survey: The Cut. Prudential Survey.  
[http://news.prudential.com/content/1209/files/PrudentialTheCutExploringFinancialWellnessWithinDiversePopulations.pdf?utm\\_source=businesswire&utm\\_medium=newsrelease&utm\\_campaign=thecut](http://news.prudential.com/content/1209/files/PrudentialTheCutExploringFinancialWellnessWithinDiversePopulations.pdf?utm_source=businesswire&utm_medium=newsrelease&utm_campaign=thecut)