



AFSCME Supports HB 4065

February 5, 2020

Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs Bynum and Sprenger , and members of House Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4065, a bill to end the practice of suspending drivers licenses due to unpaid traffic fines for otherwise safe drivers. Oregon AFSCME Council 75 represents nearly 27,000 employees in both the private and public sectors. Our members range in income level and many work with people who are financially or otherwise vulnerable and seeking public services.

Many others have provided details and statistics on why passage of this bill is important. When we criminalize poverty we not only perpetuate systemic racism, we not only cause undue stress and trauma to individuals and families we also needless cause unnecessary strains on our public services. AFSCME members know that real impacts on people but also know that their ability to help people is constrained by the lack of resources to get people the supports they need.

HB 4065 seems to be a simple step that helps keep people self-sufficient by allowing those who are otherwise safe drivers to keep their licenses. It is one of many steps that we should be taking to end systemic racism and criminalization of poverty. And it is a simple step to reduce some pressures on our strained public resources.

Please pass HB 4065.

Sincerely,

Eva Rippeteau
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