



March 2, 2021

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Pham and Reschke, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, we express our strong support for House Bill 2819.

The incongruity of having workers who use Individual Taxpayer Information Numbers rather than Social Security numbers are declared essential, but then not be able to have their hard work fully and fairly compensated should not be countenanced. We are certainly not talking about a "handout," as the monies this legislation seeks to compensate them for comes from their labor.

These are the workers who put food on our table under challenging conditions that most of us would not be willing to undertake. They often do so at wages that are considerably below those earned in other occupations.

They work to pay their bills and care for their families and constitute members of our communities, but they are often denied many of the privileges that other members of our society simply take for granted.

Many of these workers are undocumented residents. This status does not change the work they do nor the benefits they should receive as a result of that work.

Respectfully Submitted,

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