



Date: February 16, 2022  
To: House Committee on Rules  
From: Ames Kessler, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  
Re: Support for HB 4157

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4157. My name is Ames Kessler and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon (PHFO). PHFO is a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization with a small staff of under 15 members. We understand that leadership comes from those with lived experience and that hunger and poverty do not exist on their own, but rather a result of overlapping systems of oppression that create layers of privilege and inequity. Our values and work are centered in creating systemic changes to end hunger.

PHFO is writing in support of HB 4157 because this bill will support Oregon's economic recovery and lift up communities across the state by providing one-time payments to over 260,000 low-wage earners to support working individuals and families.

With inflation rising everywhere, price hikes are even more devastating to low-income workers and families. Every Oregonian deserves access to necessities like housing, food and energy, and these direct payments will ensure these needs are met. [PHFO urges your support for HB 4157](#)

Sincerely,

Ames Kessler  
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon