



February 16, 2022

House Committee on Rules
355 Capitol Street NE, HR C Salem
OR 97301

RE: Testimony on HB 4157: Cost of Living Support Payments

Dear 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 Khanh Le, Executive Director of Unite Oregon, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our organization. Unite Oregon is led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, and we work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice.

COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant impacts on all Oregonians particularly Black, Indigenous, people of color, and low-income residents. Low-wage and BIPOC workers have played an essential role in helping Oregon's economy to stay afloat. While our broader economy has made strong gains, working families are again being left behind and need support to keep pace and pay for essential needs.

With inflation rising everywhere, price hikes are even more devastating to low-income workers and families. Cash payments make a huge difference in the lives of these families. These direct payments will ensure that people are able to access the basic necessities like housing, food, childcare and energy.

Unite Oregon urges your support for HB 4157.

Sincerely,
Khanh Le
Executive Director
Unite Oregon