



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

Oregon AFSCME would like to submit this testimony today in support of House Bill 4157. Oregon AFSCME represents over 32,000 Oregonians across the state. We are in support of HB 4157 because it will go to support some of the lowest-paid workers in Oregon during a time when they could use additional support to ensure their families are helped and increase stability.

The pandemic has had a larger impact on some of the lowest-paid workers in Oregon who are disproportionately women and people of color. These direct payments will act as a support bridge to folks who need it the most. As the cost of living continues to increase across the nation, any wage growth that is experienced by the lowest-paid workers is quickly eaten up.

These one-time direct payments will impact folks all over the state with a large impact in supporting rural communities which see a large number of EITC filers. While we need to continue to push standards for higher wages and better working conditions for all Oregonian's this bill is a good immediate step to providing support.

For these and more reasons you will hear today, Oregon AFSCME urges you to support HB 4157.

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