

Date: February 17th, 2022

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Justice Rajee, Director of Reimagine Oregon Project

Re: HB 4157 Racial Impact Statement

My name is Justice Rajee. I am the Director of Reimagine Oregon Project; I am writing in support of House Bill 4157. Reimagine Oregon Project is a collective accountability tool led by Black leaders designed to hold multiple jurisdictions accountable to the goal of beginning the end of systemic racism in Oregon. House Bill 4157 recognizes the essential role low-wage workers play in Oregon's success by supporting them directly. The cost of living remains high in our state. House Bill 4157 is an opportunity to provide relief to hard working Oregonians and their families.

My first work experiences in food service, facility maintenance and logistics inform my view that there are many workspaces where the only way it gets done is if people are there in person. The vital importance of these workers to our well-being and our economy was laid bare during this global pandemic. House Bill 4157 will lead to more than a quarter million Oregonians getting much-needed payments and clearly demonstrate that we see their value to the present and the future of our state.

House Bill 4157 will ensure low-income workers get the one-time support for increased cost of living without taxpayer money being spent on significant administrative costs. Further due to EITC usage being higher in Oregon's rural counties we will be providing resources to communities that are hardest hit by current rise in cost of living. We have to capacity to provide broad support to our communities, we should take it.

Please show your support for Oregon's frontline workers by supporting House Bill 4107.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justice Rajee', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Justice Rajee

Director Reimagine Oregon Project

10 Russell St.

Portland, OR 97227

Phone: 503.752.0409

Fax: 503.281.2612