



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 4157 COST OF LIVING SUPPORT PAYMENTS

To: House Committee on Rules
From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
02/17/2022

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and members of the committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4157 to provide support payments for low wage workers. UFCW Local 555 is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. Our members come from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, manufacturing, and healthcare. We are a diverse group of workers who take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

Oregon's low income families need support. This bill will support Oregon's economic recovery and lift up communities across the state by providing one-time payments to the over 300,000 low-wage earners who filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2021. This structure intends to streamline the distribution of payments to Oregon's low income earners. Simply by filing for EITC in 2021, they are eligible to receive this one time payment. A separate budget appropriation to Oregon Worker Relief Fund will allow for ITIN filers and others ineligible for the EITC who would otherwise qualify to receive these direct payments.

These direct payments will ensure that people are able to access necessities like housing, food, and energy. One \$600 payment to Oregon's low income households does not solve the systemic issues Oregonians face, but it is a program that will get money in the hands of Oregonians efficiently and effectively.

We urge your eye vote.

Thank you,

Madison Walters,
Political Liaison,
UFCW Local 555

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

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