



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 1565

To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business
From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
Date: February 8th, 2022

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1565.

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.

Senate Bill 1565 addresses public accommodation issues to ensure all Oregonians have the same ability to work, live, and shop. The measure addresses the fact that all consumers must continue to be able to access goods and services with cash. It recognizes that while technological changes may improve our lives in many ways, we must ensure that we aren't leaving broad swaths of individuals behind.

Based on a recent FDIC survey, 25% of U.S. households are either unbanked or underbanked. This gap disproportionately impacts households of color, with 16.9% of African American families and 14% of Hispanic families being unbanked in 2017, compared to 3% of white households.

Trends towards "cashless" stores and restaurants also negatively impact low-income households across the spectrum. According to the survey, approximately 35% of all U.S. households earning less than \$40,000 a year were unbanked or underbanked. This represents an estimated 63 million adults.

Under this bill, businesses will still be able to be "cash only" if they like, and there are reasonable exceptions to ensure that compliance is practical.

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • ufcw555.org





This is an emerging issue dealing with emerging technology, and right now we have an opportunity to guide our policy earlier rather than later. This will help provide clarity to businesses looking to innovate without adversely impacting current operations, and help to ensure that further development of such technology does not occur in a manner that adversely impacts already-vulnerable communities.

We need to keep in mind who bears the true cost of “convenience” and “efficiency” as technologies are implemented. Our retail workers stand behind our working families. We hope you will too.

UFCW Local 555 thanks you for your support and urges you to vote “yes” on SB 1565.

Sincerely,

Madison Walters,
Political Liaison,
UFCW Local 555

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • ufcw555.org

