

Testimony in support of HB 5006 (2025)

Co-Chairs Sanchez and Lieber and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kate Suisman. I am an attorney at the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We represent workers in low-wage jobs when bad things happen to them at work: when they are not paid, or are discriminated against for being in a protected class or are retaliated against for speaking up. Finally, we engage in policy advocacy and try to bring the important perspectives of workers in low-wage jobs and immigrant workers to these policy discussions.

Thank you for your work to pass a strong, balanced budget for Oregon. We know it is a very difficult time to be in your positions. I hope that at this time when so many basic tenets of our democracy are under attack, Oregon will prioritize the most vulnerable among us. NWJP's client community needs state support now more than ever, and we believe the **Immigrant Justice Package** is essential for Oregon's diverse immigrant population. We hope you will fully fund this package which is comprised of \$15M for Universal Representation (HB 2543), \$10M for Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund (HB 3193), \$14M for the Home Fund, \$1.5M for Indigenous Language Justice (HB 2976) and \$7.7M for Food for All Oregonians (SB 611). Immigrant Oregonians are experiencing economic and political uncertainty at an unprecedented level. People need to feel safe in the knowledge that they can stay in their homes and have food on their plates. We need to be able to miss a day of work if conditions are extremely dangerous. We need interpreters in our first language to navigate life's most stressful moments. This package of funding requests will do all these things and more. We support the testimony of the Fair Shot Coalition on these items, which provides more detail.

We also support **Stable Homes, United We Heal** and the **Workforce Standards Boards**. Our focus is 100% on workers in low-wage jobs and this package of bills is aimed at this very community.

Thank you sincerely for your work on this issue.