

February 2, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Kayse Jama
Chairman
Oregon Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE, S-223
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Jama:

Portland Jobs with Justice submits this testimony in favor of SB 1505, a bill to establish the Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board and is testifying in favor of the bill because of the importance to our democracy of giving workers and their representatives a seat at the table in setting industry standards.

Portland Jobs with Justice is a coalition of over 100 labor, faith, community and student organizations and individual activists taking action for workers rights and economic justice, especially those most marginalized by our economic system such as people of color, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, and women.

Portland Jobs with Justice is also an affiliate of national Jobs with Justice. Jobs with Justice believes that all workers should have collective bargaining rights, employment security and a decent standard of living within an economy that works for everyone. We bring together labor, community, student, and faith voices at the national and local levels to win improvements in people's lives and shape the public discourse on workers' rights and the economy. Jobs with Justice is a national non-profit organization that believes that all workers should have collective bargaining rights, employment security, and a decent standard of living within an economy that works for everyone. We bring together labor, community, student, and faith voices at the national and local levels to win improvements in people's lives and shape the public discourse on workers' rights and the economy.

The Jobs with Justice network has long supported the type of standard setting board envisioned by SB 1505, a tripartite board that includes the voices of workers, industry, and the government. Attached to this testimony are two reports on related boards.

The first is a report by Adam Shah and Eileen Boris that reviews the long history of such standard-setting boards in the United States. Mr. Shah is the Director of National Policy for national Jobs With Justice. Professor Boris is the Hull Professor and Distinguished

Professor of Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In their report, they outline the way boards such as the one that would be created by SB 1505 were used in several states in the early 20th Century as well as by the federal government as part of the New Deal.

The second is a report by the Harvard Law School Center for Labor & a Just Economy that discusses the creation and work done by the Harris County Essential Worker Board, an entity created to provide feedback and recommendations and advise on programs and policies that affect essential workers in the Houston, Texas area. The Harvard report contains a list of worker standard boards that have been set up between 2018 and 2024 in states and cities across the nation.

Together, these reports show that workforce standards boards that give a role to workers and their representatives are a tried and true way to improve working conditions. Furthermore, they are important to our democracy, giving workers, who have the true expertise about their industry, a voice in setting sectoral standards.

Portland Jobs with Justice supports passage of SB 1505.

Sincerely,

Tyler Fellini
Executive Director
Portland Jobs with Justice

Attachments