



TO: Senate Committee on Labor and Business

FR: Fiona Yau-Luu, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555

DATE: February 4th, 2026

SUPPORT FOR SB 1519

Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Hayden and the members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 1519. My name is Fiona Yau-Luu, and I am a political liaison and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, the largest private sector labor union in Oregon, representing workers from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, manufacturing, and healthcare. We stand in strong support of SB 1519 with the proposed -2 amendment which would provide workers with benefits equal to the sum of 75% of the injured worker's weekly wage, for the portion of wages below 75% of the state average weekly wage (SAWW), and 65% for any wages above 75% of the SAWW while maintaining the total benefit cap at 133% of the state's average weekly wage.

The current statute provides workers with time loss benefits equal to 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ of their average weekly wage or the state's average weekly wage, whatever is less. The formula used to calculate the weekly benefit is based on a tax bracket for higher income workers that ends up penalizing low-income workers who pay a lower tax rate. That means, they often get paid less than what they would actually receive if they were working.

A core tenant of the workers' compensation system is to get workers back to work by making sure they have the time and medical resources they need to heal. We want all workers to be made as close to whole as possible so they can focus on those core tenants and not have to prolong their healing because they need to make ends meet.

This legislation provides workers with peace of mind during an already stressful time. Removing this burden allows workers to focus on getting better and not having to worry about other stressors can speed up their healing process while also preventing re-injuries in the future.

We urge this committee to pass this important piece of legislation to help Oregonians in need.

Sincerely,

Fiona Yau-Luu

Political Liaison

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555



UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555

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