



February 4, 2026

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

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a political coordinator at Oregon AFSCME. Our union represents over 42,000 workers across the state in both public and private sectors and we believe in economic and social justice for all Oregon workers and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you an update on SB 1519. This bill is scheduled to go before the Management and Labor Advisory Committee tomorrow at 10am and expect for a vote to occur on the -2 amendment posted on OLIS. If you recall, on Monday there was a -1 that we referred to which was the product of the stakeholder feedback received. Since then, there was an additional minor request which is why there is a -2. Thankfully we were able to sort out the concern raised and agree that it was necessary in order to achieve the goals of the original subcommittee.

Current statute permits time loss benefits to be paid at a rate of 66 and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the workers average weekly wage or the states average weekly wage, whatever is less and is capped at 133% of the state's average weekly wage. The -2 increases the temporary disability rate from 66 2/3 to 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.

Ensuring that workers have access to medical treatment and time loss benefits while trying to get back to work is crucial. When workers do not heal adequately, they're rushed back to work and are oftentimes forced to accept "light duty" or modified work, reducing time they should be taking off work in order to heal and to prevent being re-injured. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and we look forward to returning with a recommendation from MLAC and continue to move the bill forward.