



AFSCME Testimony in support of SB 828

Chair Taylor Members of the Committee my name is Joe Baessler I work for Oregon AFSCME.

Oregon AFSCME supports SB 828. We are favor of the whole bill but I wanted to focus on Section 3 of the bill that allows workers to better arrange their lives and protects them from the expense and trauma of showing up to work and then being sent home. If a worker is called in and sent home they are still entitles to be paid for a four hour shift. For AFSCME members this is a major issue for healthcare workers and human service workers. When we organize these workers it is always one of the first things we put into our contracts and it is often a major factor of poor moral in the workforce.

I think a great deal people think about wait staff in these terms but often a major problem with non-profit behavioral health providers. The work there is so hard and the pay is so low that turnover is huge and so they use on-call staff to fill the gap and these workers are often called in only to be sent home again. It also happens in many of the rural hospitals around the state re represent. We have workers who will drive in for 30-40 minutes to be told to head home. For most of our members we have protections for this situation where if they are called in they get paid for the whole day but in the places that have no contract or for workers outside of our bargaining units it is a significant problem still.

AFSCME supports the effort to give all workers these protections because workers need stability as much if not more than the business that they work for. There should be balance in the relationship and fairness. If a businesses need to make sure they have enough workers to fill their shifts and need to schedule more workers than they might need that is fine. However, the workers need to know that they will get paid at least for four hours because they committed to work that day and planned around it. Right now the instability burden is place entirely on one side of the issue just on the employee. To be fair we need to share this burned to make sure no one is losing.

Please vote to support SB 828. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted by Joe Baessler