



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Chair Holvey
Vice-Chairs Grayber and Bonham
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

FR: Catie Theisen, OR AFL-CIO

RE: HB 2356 support

February 9, 2021

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2356 to remove arbitrary penalties for workers who do not have a bank account.

For too many Oregon workers, due to socio economic circumstances they are un or under banked. And because they do not have a bank account, they consequently have to pay a fee to cash their paycheck. In Oregon, these fees generally range from \$3-\$8 per check at most financial institutions. If they decide to go to other check-cashing businesses that aren't banks or credit unions they pay \$5 or 3% (whichever is greater) for payroll checks. For a full time \$15 per hour worker, this would reduce their weekly take home pay down to less than \$500.

For many Oregonians, this fee portion is not an insignificant amount to be able to pay their rent and bills and support their families. And fundamentally, the requisite of a bank account discriminates against thousands of Oregon workers by penalizing part of their paycheck, further marginalizing workers and families who are often already most at economic risk.

HB 2356 changes this by eliminating cash-checking fees for un or underbanked Oregon families. We encourage your Yes vote on this issue of fairness and equity for workers trying to make ends meet.