



Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham and members of the committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar and I am writing in support of SB 592 on behalf of Oregon AFSCME.

Oregon AFSCME believes in economic and social justice for all Oregon workers and their families. One of our priorities is to empower and unite workers to create change in their workplaces and communities. Oregon AFSCME represents over 33,000 workers in the public sector. Our members work for the State of Oregon in addition to counties, municipalities and behavioral health nonprofits across Oregon as well as self-employed child care providers.

Within our own organization, we have seen how deaths have occurred which could've been prevented by ensuring that inspections are done consistently. Everyday, folks get up and go to work believing that their workplace is a safe space for them to perform their duties. While we trust that employers are responsible enough to maintain and upkeep safe and healthy workplaces on their own, when fatalities do occur; We need to make sure that they are held accountable so that mistakes do not reoccur.

SB 592 would strengthen and align Oregon penalties with the federal standard. This bill would improve the current safety and health practices with the goal to make all workplaces in Oregon safer for workers all over the state. Additionally, it strengthens inspections which are imperative to ensuring that workplaces are safe for our workers and we are able to prevent any fatalities. It would trigger a comprehensive whole-workplace inspection if 3 or more violations occur within a year *or* an occupational death occurs.

Passage of this bill would also increase transparency from agencies which is crucial to ensuring we have accurate and up to date information which can be used in the future to craft strong policy. In some cases, workplace violations continue to occur which leave workers in a vulnerable state. SB 592 is needed in place to ensure that bad actor employers know that there are consequences to not rectifying working standards and workers are protected.

Thank you for your consideration,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar
Political Coordinator
Oregon AFSCME