



*From the Desk of
Casey Houlihan
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Testimony in Support of SB 1176 - Businesses MUST Accept Cash!

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Casey Houlihan. I am a long-time public policy professional, an operations and policy analyst for a state agency - and in 2018, I helped author Oregon's first bill to ban cashless policies in businesses and places of public accommodation [[SB 716, 2019](#)].

I am writing to you today as a private citizen to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1176, which requires the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to educate both businesses and the general public about the legal obligation to accept cash payments.

Despite previous legislative success in banning this inherently discriminatory practice, non-compliance remains a significant issue. Many businesses continue to openly refuse cash payments, effectively excluding many individuals from participating in the economy.

Let's not sugarcoat this. When we passed [SB 1565 in 2022](#), we made it crystal clear that businesses in Oregon have to accept cash. Yet here we are—three years later—watching businesses openly thumb their noses at this law without any fear of consequences.

This ongoing disregard for this law perpetuates economic disparities and undermines the inclusivity we strive for in Oregon. SB 1176 addresses this challenge by directing BOLI to conduct a comprehensive educational campaign to ensure that both businesses and consumers are aware of the cash acceptance requirement. This proactive approach is essential to achieving full compliance, and for safeguarding the rights of all Oregonians.

The law is the law. Cash is legal tender. If we don't enforce it, we might as well start letting businesses decide which other laws they feel like disregarding - and I'm sure they have plenty of ideas about this. Unfettered corporate control rarely benefits society. Eventually, the whole social contract collapses under the weight of corporate convenience.

I urge you to support SB 1176 to end widespread non-compliance of this common-sense policy, and to uphold our right to use legal tender for all debts, public and private.

Respectfully,

Casey Houlihan
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