

Submitter: Dawn Hartwell
On Behalf Of: Hart 2 Hart Investigations
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5031

Hello, my name is Dawn Hartwell with Hart 2 Hart Investigations. We opened our business in 2017 when the pay was \$29 an hour. My husband, Troy Hartwell, has extensive law enforcement and federal police training which has played a huge benefit in working for the state of Oregon as a Criminal Defense Investigator. to the attorneys. He understands the law on both sides and is passionate about justice. What started with him working solo and me working in the corporate world, we survived on what we had with 1/2 of my pay going toward medical coverage for us. As our business grew, we had to make a choice...for me to continue to work to cover our benefits and or join my husband to help the business. That means no benefits, no hourly pay but to help the business continue to grow.

It has been hard, extremely hard to cover all the expenses it takes to run a business, advance all the mileage, and records (outrageous cost that we carry and pay interest on) , cover our benefits, and help develop new investigators. We do not clock in and out - we work all hours. We need to be treated and respected by the state and a fair wage is a good start.

Thank you,
Dawn Hartwell