



Wednesday March 25, 2025

Good evening Chair Taylor, Vice chair Bonham and members of the committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a political coordinator at Oregon AFSCME. Our union represents over 39,000 workers across the state in both public and private sectors and we believe in economic and social justice for all Oregon workers and their families. We are here to share strong support for SB 757 with the -1 amendment.

We want to thank the sponsor of the bill, Senator Gorsek, for working on this with us this session to address this technical fix for a small handful of chaplains who were mistakenly left out in SB 128 from the 2023 legislative session. The bill required that a housing allowance paid to a PERS member who is a prison chaplain be treated as if it were includable in a member's taxable income for purposes of determining salary and SB 757 seeks to include OHSU chaplains to the current statute for alignment.

There are currently 5 individuals employed by OHSU who are chaplains and 1 of them is almost about to retire next month but has submitted testimony for the record in support to ensure this fix is enacted for future generations. The work they do is extremely important as they provide support to patients, family, and staff of any and no faith in practical, emotional and spiritual ways during some of the toughest days of their lives.

We ask that you support this small technical fix.