

Submitter: Nathaniel Hudson-Hartman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1166

April 23, 2025

Attn: Oregon State Senate Rules Committee
RE: SB 1166

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the committee:

My name is Nathaniel Hudson-Hartman, transplanted Beavertonian and proud gig worker for nearly 8 years now. After years of exploitation, rideshare drivers in Oregon are finally being given a real glimpse of hope for a more equitable and just future for our chosen profession.

But we need our elected officials to fight with us, to help us advance the cause of gig workers' rights that most other workers take for granted. I urge you today to support Senate Bill 1166.

I would care to wager that by now most of you have used Uber or Lyft, and so you know just how much your fares have gone up, and up and up... and so have our expenses. But they pay us 200-300% less than when I started years ago?

Then, on top of that, the TNCs get to charge the rider whatever they want, without paying the driver fairly out of that, and neither driver nor rider knows exactly how much. We both demand fairness, equity, and transparency!

Put yourselves in our shoes for a moment. How does that make sense? How does that make you feel? Now you know why we've been struggling to support our families that depend on us to not only earn a fair and livable wage, but have the security to do so.

A couple years back when my sister Heather was in poor health, as a gig worker I didn't (and still don't) have access to paid family medical leave or sick time to grieve when she ultimately passed. How is that fair?

And then last January, my father Leo was in a similar downfall. Not only did I not have the safety nets this time, but the real kicker? After learning of his passing I had to cancel a gig, reeling from my grief. I then received a customer complaint and a bad rating, and was deactivated for it. Then I got sent to their appeals process, without any assurance I was even dealing with a real person, where I had one chance to

submit documentation to plead my case. I sent them a copy of my father's death certificate, but they found that I generically "violated their terms of service," and was permanently deactivated. I have chosen not to badmouth the specific company, because let's face it, Uber & Lyft do enough to tarnish their own names already...

This is just one of the many stories that hundreds—thousands even—of drivers are dealing with when we lose our jobs, and Uber & Lyft don't tell us why or help us get reactivated.

Bottom line, I don't want any of my siblings on wheels to ever have to overcome the same trauma I continue to struggle to heal from, especially with having to take unpaid time off to be with family in times of strife and grief, or going to work every day knowing your pay could get cut again, or cut off entirely, by artificial intelligence.

Fair pay, protections, benefits, and a voice... the rights that all workers deserve. This is our call to action! Please, members of the committee and our electeds; if you truly care about your constituents and rideshare drivers in the Beaver State and our beloved passengers, then you will pass this legislation, and give us the help we all so desperately need.

Respectfully,

Nathaniel Hudson-Hartman
Lyft and Uber driver