

Submitter: Jeremy Emerson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1166

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee,

I have been a ride share driver for eight years, and during this time, I've witnessed a significant decline in our earnings while our operational costs have increased dramatically.

Initially, driving allowed me to manage a flexible 50-50 co-parenting schedule for my daughter, now nine years old, without the added expense of daycare. I could work when available, which felt like a semi-retirement, enabling me to sustain a home, purchase a new car, and support us as a single father.

However, over the last 18 months, my per-hour pay has decreased by 20%-30%, despite the surge in demand, especially noted this fall and January. A recent report from Insurify in August 2024 highlighted that Uber drivers saw a sharp year-over-year decline of 17.1% in gig driver earnings between 2022 and 2023. This trend continued in 2024, with drivers now facing not just reduced earnings but also a significant rise in operational costs like insurance (up by 24% in 2023 with a projected 7% increase in 2024) and vehicle maintenance (up by 36.2% since January 2019). This stark reduction in income has forced me to sell my home and move into income-restricted housing.

Moreover, health issues like asthma and COPD mean that when I'm ill, I cannot work, highlighting the need for some form of sick pay or benefits. The current pay structure no longer supports a reasonable living, even with steady or increased business. I urge you to consider establishing a fair pay standard, protections, and benefits for rideshare drivers to ensure we can continue to serve the community without sacrificing our health or financial stability.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Emerson
Lyft and Uber driver

Note: The data here is based on the search results provided, which are the most recent available.