

Submitter: Seth Aniagyei

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1166

Hello, Everyone.

My name is Seth. I have been an Uber driver since 2019 and there are several challenges that have made driving for Uber or Lyft more difficult than I initially anticipated. I am hoping you will pass Senate Bill 1166 to address some of these issues.

One of the most glaring issues is the unfair pay and lack of adequate benefits. Despite the increasing "passenger" fare, cost of fuel, vehicle maintenance, and insurance, the pay per ride seems to be getting lower, and the surge pricing often feels inconsistent. In many instances, after spending hours on the road, my earnings are barely enough to cover basic expenses, let alone profit.

Furthermore, Uber's lack of benefits such as paid sick time, family medical leave and workers compensation makes it feel like the company is taking advantage of its drivers who bear all the costs and risks of the job without the support they truly need. A very good question legislatures need to ask is, what is UBER's TAKE RATE???

My safety is a constant concern that Uber has failed to address adequately. Two drivers I personally know, have passed away on the job to gun violence and Uber's response to the families were simply generic. While UBER and Lyft have implemented a few safety features in the app, such as an emergency button, they are not enough to prevent incidents from happening. I have personally experienced uncomfortable situations with passengers, and there is little to no support from Uber when these situations arise.

My most troubling of all is the frequent deactivation of driver accounts without clear explanations or a transparent appeal process. I personally know over 100 drivers, almost 95% of them migrants of African descent, Hispanics and Asians, who have been in this predicament, and while I was fortunate to sue Uber and prove their negligence, hundreds of other drivers are not able to. It can be incredibly frustrating to lose access to the platform, especially when drivers are not given a chance to dispute the decision or receive proper recourse. This lack of accountability leaves drivers feeling powerless and unfairly treated in an industry that's already difficult to navigate.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1166.

Thank you,

Seth Aniagyei
Lyft, Uber driver