

Testimony from Amanda Orozco - Unite Oregon
Fair Rides Oregon
Oregon State Senate Committee on Rules
April 28, 2025

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

My name is Amanda Orozco, and I am a policy coordinator writing on behalf of Unite Oregon, a proud partner of the Fair Rides Coalition. We are part of a group of more than 40 community organizations working across the state to ensure that our transportation systems serve both the people who use them and the people who power them.

We are here to express strong support for Senate Bill 1166. This bill is about basic fairness. It is about ensuring that the people behind the wheel are treated with dignity, paid fairly, and given the protections that all workers deserve.

I rely on rideshare services when I travel for work, when I visit family, and sometimes just to get home safely after a long day. I have gotten into a car after missing a bus in a strange city, after a delayed flight, or after leaving a meeting feeling emotionally exhausted. In those moments, the driver on the other end of the app made all the difference. These workers have shown up for me when I needed them, often late at night or during moments of stress and uncertainty. I could go on.

But while riders like me have seen the cost of trips go up, drivers tell us that their pay has not. Companies like Uber and Lyft are using complex algorithms that change pay by location, time, and other factors that are hidden from public view. In some parts of Oregon, there are no wage standards at all. Drivers are left at the mercy of a system they cannot see or challenge. That is not fair to our working class who take such care of us riders.

Senate Bill 1166 creates clear standards for pay, sick time, and deactivation procedures. It recognizes that rideshare work is essential, and that the people doing it deserve basic protections. It also creates a Driver Resource Center so that drivers can get help when things go wrong. This is a model for how we treat workers with respect.

Other states have taken years to build momentum for these kinds of protections. Oregon can learn from those lessons and lead from the start.

Unite Oregon and our partners in the Fair Rides Coalition urge you to support this bill and stand with the workers who keep our communities connected.

Thank you for your time and your leadership.