



To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Emily McLain, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
Re: Support of SB 1532A
Date: February 15, 2016

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee,

My name is Emily McLain and I am here on behalf of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon. We have signed on to the current Raise the Wage campaign because we know our patients cannot provide for themselves and their family on less than \$20,000 a year on minimum wage. When healthcare is unaffordable it is inaccessible.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon supports an increase to the minimum wage because we know more than half the patients who rely on Planned Parenthood are economically fragile and their ability to earn a living wage for themselves and their families is as important to their well being as their ability to get high quality healthcare.

Approximately 21,000 women of reproductive age in Oregon have a Bronze or Silver Plan with deductibles of \$2,500 or more. About 65% of women enrolled in the Oregon marketplace have a Silver Plan. Often those who don't qualify for OHP can use federal subsidies and tax credits to help afford the Silver Plan. This population typically requires little health care besides basic, preventive services, they are unlikely to have met these high deductibles when seeking urgent healthcare.

It is the rising costs of healthcare and the inability of Oregonians making minimum wage to pay for their care that brings us so adamantly to the table to raise the wage in Oregon. We all have unexpected expenses, whether it is a healthcare need of our own, or one for a family member. With high deductibles and a low minimum wage we know our patients are in trouble.

This proposal will give workers an additional few hundred dollars in 2016 to help afford the basics. This could be the difference between being able to afford a critical piece of healthcare or not.

Our bottom line is that we want to make sure that wages increase in 2016. The ballot measure proposals are still an option but legislative action would provide certainty for Oregonians and could make an immediate difference this summer.