

Chair Holvey, Members of the Committee,

My name is Patrick Maher and I have lived in Beaverton, OR for the past 12 years. I have been a driver for Uber and Lyft since Nov 2015, driving mostly in the City of Portland.

I have been a single parent of two young children since 2013, since then I have put myself through school to become a teacher. I joined Uber and Lyft to create some income while I was going to school and working around my time with my children. Over the course of my driving experiences, I have seen many instances where I would become what I (and many TNC drivers would call the Drunk Shuttle). While doing so I am risking my personal safety, my vehicle and the safety of passengers, pedestrians and other drivers. I have had instances where passengers have thrown up in and on my car, driven to areas of town that I would not normally go to-- all for the sake of getting a fare. The fare that I have obtained was reduced several times over the past year and a half, while the insurance gap between the TNC Company's coverage and my own personal limits has also grown. In order to cover the gap I have obtained gap coverage insurance that is an additional \$1028 a year-- out of my pocket. Uber and Lyft have also greatly compromised my earnings as I have had many problems with rates being inconsistent and reduced without my notice. Drivers most often will just drive 'to chase the fare' when there is surge pricing (high demand) then drivers are encouraged to go towards that surge area - think the Moda Center after a Timbers game- to get a better fare and as many rides as possible. My experience has been one that has led to many rate queries and rate changes that have led to an average 3-5 additional hours with Uber and Lyft per week challenging and disputing specific rates or fares. Rate changes, inconsistencies and gaps in insurance are some of the biggest problems I experience with both Uber and Lyft.

I strongly encourage you to VOTE NO on HB 3246 so that Uber and Lyft cannot control at their will the low and often getting lower rates. I strongly encourage you to VOTE NO on HB 3246 so that Uber and Lyft will stop treating their 'subcontractors' as a distant third party with no rights, privileges of a respected and honored employee. I strongly encourage you to VOTE NO on HB 3246 so that Uber and Lyft do not go statewide and effectively eliminate the opportunity to improve conditions, wages, and insurance gaps of its drivers. These are NOT technology companies, they are ridesharing companies and we need to be treated as employees of them. PLEASE VOTE NO on HB 3246.