

April 3, 2017

Honorable Rep Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Charles McGee, and I am the President and CEO of The Black Parent Initiative (BPI). BPI was established in 2006 to help families in achieving financial, educational and spiritual success. BPI is currently the only culturally specific organization in Portland focused solely on supporting low/moderate income parents as a vehicle for enhancing the lives of Black youth. Our unique approach is to improve the lives of Portland's Black and multi-ethnic children by focusing on optimal health, cultural identity development, parent education, and ensuring parents and caregivers have the resources to ensure children succeed.

I am here to urge you to support HB 3246, which will bring more equitable transportation options to all of Oregon. I am also here to oppose HB 3043 and 3093, which will do nothing but disenfranchise drivers, particularly drivers of color.

In 2015, I participated in taking the first official Uber trip offered in Portland. I did this because for years, my community and all historically underserved neighborhoods and communities in Portland, did not have the access to transportation that we do now thanks to transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft. My community was excited in 2015 when Uber and Lyft came to Portland, and I just as excited today for the opportunity to bring ride sharing to the entire state.

Prior to TNCs, the underserved neighborhoods in Portland essentially had only two options - own your own car or take the bus or max. Taxis rarely served neighborhoods like north and outer SE Portland. Since the addition of TNCs to the Portland market, reports from the Portland Bureau of Transportation show, and my communities has experienced, a dramatic increase in service to Portland's historically underserved neighborhoods.

In addition to better service, Uber and Lyft have opened up thousands of flexible, on demand, income earning opportunities for people that simply didn't exist before. Prior to Uber and Lyft, Portland had a limited number of taxi permits - only a few hundred. Now anyone, for any reason, can drive and earn money whenever they want. This is huge for low income people. If you've recently lost your job, can only find a part time job, are a single parent, or just want to earn and save more money, the ability to drive for Uber, Lyft - or both at the same time is helping people get ahead.

Lastly, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3043 and 3093 which would require fingerprinting and drug testing for drivers. These measures would do nothing to improve public safety and would have a disproportionate impact on drivers of color, who are overrepresented in

fingerprinting databases as a result of decades of racial bias in our criminal justice system. The committee was provided a letter from former US Attorney General, Eric Holder, outlining the numerous problems with fingerprinting background checks so I won't spend too much time on it. Portland doesn't require either of these unnecessary requirements and neither should the State of Oregon.

In conclusion, for equity and for empowerment of underserved communities in Oregon I urge you to support HB 3246 and oppose HB 3043 and 3093.

Thank you.