



**Urban League
of Portland**

May 7th, 2025

House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support SB-426A-Engrossed

Chair Graybar, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Munoz and members of the committee,

The Urban League of Portland urges your strong support of SB 426A-Engrossed. Wage theft is an insidious and despicable practice that robs hardworking people of due pay, dignity and respect. It undermines trust in our private and public systems, while pushing people out of promising workforce pipelines leaving our society without skilled trades we need to build.

Our communities must have the opportunity to compete fairly in the construction industry, and they are being undercut by shady contractors. This bill will help level the playing field for all. Trades provide an opportunity to develop a lifelong skill, can provide a living wage, and support vital needs like housing construction, infrastructure repair, and ensure that our economy is not derailed by a lack of skilled workers.

Our communities are disproportionately impacted by the underground economy and wage theft. This experience turns young people away from careers in the trades because of the current culture of exploitation and abuse. This is affecting our ability to combat the housing crisis in Oregon, develop the next generation of trades people and ensure we have the workforce capacity to meet the needs of our state.

The amendments in SB 426A-Engrossed serve to offer concessions for all concerned parties while mitigating the root causes of both wage theft and human trafficking in the construction industry.

We urge your strong support of SB 426A-Engrossed. Thank you for your consideration.



Urban League
of Portland

Be well,



Urban League
of Portland



Justice Rajee (he/him)
Director Reimagine Oregon

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