



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 35

June 5th, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on [SB 170 A](#)

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

After much consideration, reading and listening to testimony from workers, public defenders, and members of the community, I have come to the conclusion that [SB 170 A](#) does not address the real causes of violence against workers and would not improve safety. We know from decades of data that increasing the penalty for a crime does not decrease instances of that crime. So, while this bill would not succeed in reducing the number of assaults, it *would* succeed in criminalizing more folks who are in crisis. It would disproportionately impact already vulnerable individuals by increasing felony convictions that could prevent them from attaining restorative services, housing, and employment in the future. I cannot vote in favor of increasing penalties for a crime without hard data to indicate that we are working holistically to reduce the root causes of said crime.

Additionally, I have a difficult time accepting the premise that an assault on someone means more when they are employed and working than an assault on someone who is unemployed. Based on the multiple bills I have seen in the last three years from different industries on this issue, it is clear that there are very serious concerns for safety while at work. But I think putting resources into violence prevention, safe staffing levels, and other workplace safety measures would serve us all far better than funneling more marginalized people into our for-profit criminal justice system.

For these reasons, I am a "no" vote on Senate Bill 170 A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Farrah Chaichi".

Representative Farrah Chaichi
House District 35