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The average Uber driver makes around 35 to 60 dollars in a two day period and is earning roughly 30 percent of minimum wage, any increase in cost that the taxi industry and lobby are claiming would “even the playing field” would effectively eliminate the Uber drivers systematically and also enrage a huge swath of major / high density voting areas that currently depend on ride share in this state..... Mostly silent unregistered voters who will register upon these changes being made, this year alone there was a influx of new registrations in some of these high density areas and this will only expedite that process if they are given good reason to do so.

If the state leadership wishes to increase costs for individual drivers in a manner that “Evens the playing field” for taxi drivers, they should draw up legislation that forces Uber and other rideshare companies to pay livable wages and contribute to meaningful employment. AFTER EXPENSES AND DEPRECIATION/MILAGE the average uber driver in our state takes home roughly 30 percent of current minimum wage and some argue it could be less, i work roughly 55 hours a week for roughly 275 dollars a week. you do the math, any additional costs to the driver will effectively eliminate completion, in addition, there are so many uber drivers that the average taxi actually performs more work in a day then the average uber or rideshare, the only thing preventing this from being known is that the taxis have very lax record keeping and reporting mandates / oversight.

The average taxi driver needs to perform 2 trips a day to make the money that I make working nearly a full shift, Taxi drivers are somehow assumed to be in hardship while they can continue to drive new vehicles and pay their bills, something that Uber drivers and rideshare contractors are totally unable or barely able to do at this point.

If the house and senate was worried about even playing fields or even adequate protection of consumers, they would require Uber to hire their drivers, pay a livable wage and to contribute to the states tax base in a meaningful way, today they are totally in the pockets of the lobby who represents the companies best interests and insurance coverage is completely the wrong direction to take for our state.

Uber drivers are tax paying, contributing and functioning members of society, most of who are working multiple jobs, have children and who volunteer and contribute in hugely important ways but they are also afraid to speak for fear that they will be crushed.

The house and senate need to not be side tracked by the false claims of hardship and unequal playing fields made by the taxi lobby and industry and focus on whats right, holding Uber and other ride share companies responsible for their employees (thats what we are as drivers) JUST AS VERMONT DID WHEN FED EX TRIED TO GAME THE WORK SYSTEM WITH “CONTRACTORS” and this same insurance approach was attempted with them as well and failed due to lobby pressure and was truthfully the wrong approach to begin with.

The true need is for the house and senate to open an investigation into how and what the drivers of Uber are being paid and how the state can force a radical adjustment in that pay scheme. Id be glad to help and to provide my records of payment as part of the process. This year after working nearly everyday and slaving for the company I made below poverty standards and Im sure almost every other driver did as well.

If you folks are concerned at all, this is where the effort should be made! Creating not only a voice for impoverished workers but holding a huge company to task for the way they treat their employees.THE MOST IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT PART OF MY MESSAGE IS THAT ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS PUT ON THE BACKS OR ADDED RESPONSIBILITY LAID AT THE FEET OF THE UBER DRIVER, WILL EFFECTIVELY CREATE A WORK FOR NOTHING SITUATION, NO UBER DRIVER WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES OR PAY THEIR BILLS. PERIOD. WE CAN BARELY DO IT AS IT IS AND THE LITTLE WE DO MAKE ISNT ENDING UP IN SAVINGS. WE ARE RUNNING IN CIRCLES LIKE HAMSTERS IN A WHEEL AS IT IS! WORKING FOR 3 DOLLARS AN HOUR IS NOT EASY.

Thank you and please make this part of the record.

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