

To: House Health Care Committee
From: Greg Ivers
RE: House Bill 3075

Chair Salinas, Vice-chairs Nosse and Hayden, members of the committee,

For the record my name is Greg Ivers, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am a Department of Human Services worker in Salem. My spouse also works for the Department of Human Services in Salem. He has been with the state for almost 10 years and I just reached 20 years of state service. I am very committed to serving the people of Oregon and I believe that the social services safety net is very important.

I am here today to ask you to restore coordinated spousal coverage for public service workers like me, by supporting the house bill. The decision to take this benefit away only from workers whose spouses also work in public service is fundamentally unfair and will have serious consequences for my family.

Although I am blessed with fairly good health, my husband has a number of health problems, including back pain, asthma, and high blood pressure. The double health insurance coverage is very helpful in keeping our costs down. Prescriptions can often cost quite a bit of money out of pocket, and there are sometimes items that he needs that are not covered by our medical insurance at all. Double coverage helps us to afford the items that are not covered, as we save money on that end.

Additionally, our young adult nephew lives with us and does not have medical insurance. When he needs medical care, we help him to pay the costs. The money that we save from the double coverage on ourselves helps to defray the outlay of expenses when our nephew has to go to the doctor.

The work that my colleagues and I do is important, and we don't do it for the money. However, when you take away benefits from only workers who are committed to public services, but not others, you are creating an inequity in our workplaces and making public service less and less attractive. I am asking you to restore our ability to make our own decisions about how our family is insured.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.

Greg Ivers
Operations and Policy Analyst 3
Salem, OR

