



February 3, 2021

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Meek, Vice Chair Lewis, members of the committee, for the record my name is Kyndall Mason; I am a political and policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, focusing on long term care. SEIU represents more than 30,000 long term care workers, in various service settings including facility based and home and community based care settings. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of those workers in support of HB 2461

Long term care facilities were some of the hardest hit by COVID-19, not just because of the vulnerable population and the congregate style living, but because the industry, and the state, were woefully underprepared. People working in long term care facilities spent the first few months of the pandemic trying desperately to secure PPE. Many of our members told stories about having to wear trash bags in lieu of aprons, and towels in place of masks because there simply was not enough PPE.

Members of SEIU shared these stories with us and we set to work trying to hold employers, and state agencies accountable. We started buying masks and shipping them to members around the state while also working to secure letters of agreement with employers around protective equipment and COVID safety guidelines.

Throughout this process, one thing was clear, no one was sure who was responsible for making sure long term care workers had the supplies to do their jobs safely. While we are not in the same crisis we were in nearly 10 months ago, we think the right thing to do would be to prevent a crisis around PPE like we had in 2020. HB 2461 would create the accountability and clarity to hopefully prevent such shortages in the future.

Thank you for your time and we urge a yes vote for HB 2461.

Kyndall Mason  
Political & Policy Strategist  
SEIU Local 503

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159  
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE  
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.  
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146  
[www.seiu503.org](http://www.seiu503.org)