



Chair Smith-Warner, Vice Chairs Drazen and Holvey, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Debbie Dorris Koreski and today I am appearing on behalf of SEIU Locals 503 and 49 who represent more than 85,000 public, private sector, care providers and non-profit workers in Oregon & SW Washington. SEIU's voluntary CAPE/COPE Political Action Committees have over 13,000 individual contributors who on average donate \$8.00 a month to our political efforts. Through our collective efforts, we strive to empower working Oregonians and amplify the voices of our BiPOC community members in our electoral process.

SEIU supports the policy goals outlined in the proposed -1 amendments for HB 2680. We support the provisions for small donor PACS because they empower the collective efforts of working people and amplify the concerns and needs of their families. We also strongly support the Small Donor 6-1 Match program. Small donor public financing is one of the most powerful, proven solutions available to counter the overwhelming influence of wealth on our political process in the aftermath of the Citizens United decision. Small donor PACs combined with a matching public financing option would prove to be one of the most powerful ways to expand grassroots organizing and uplift the voices of workers and other everyday Oregonians to influence political change. These two tools combined would be a powerful force in creating a truly reflective democracy for Oregon.

SEIU also supports ensuring worker justice for campaign staff. Campaigns often serve as an entry point for future legislative and policy staff and even future lawmakers. We must ensure that all Oregonians – not just those who can afford to volunteer their time - have access to these essential entry points. This is essential in ensuring economic and racial diversity in our policy workforce and in the legislative body.

SEIU opposes any efforts that would increase the reliance and dependence on independent expenditure campaigns. Without realistic limits and meaningful transparency measures, we fear that independent expenditures will be on the rise. Independent expenditure campaigns separate candidates from owning their campaign messages. Too often, independent expenditure campaigns lead to the spread of not only negative and hostile campaigning – but also the spread of false and misleading information in our communities.

SEIU also opposes the policy direction proposed -2 amendments. The -2s do not make our election system more equitable or diverse. The -2s do not include any provisions for small donor PACs and unduly benefit corporations and wealthy voters over working Oregonians.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. HB 2680 represents one of the most significant changes in recent history for our electoral process. Oregonians will need to feel

confident that these changes are a positive step in ensuring that our electoral system encourages participation and equity in our democracy. I am happy to answer any questions.