



Service Employees International Union Local 503

72,000 public services workers, care providers, and non-profit employees in Oregon.

To: House Committee on Rules

On: April 22, 2021

Re: House Bill 2906

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2906, with the -2 amendment, which addresses an unintended outcome of Senate Bill 1049 (2019). SEIU Local 503 represents thousands of public sector workers in Oregon, including the classified staff at Oregon's seven public universities, local government workers, and state employees at dozens of Agencies and State Boards.

When the Legislature originally contemplated SB 1049, the intent was to exempt PERS-covered workers who make less than \$30,000 a year from the impacts of the redirect. For the purposes of practical implication within the PERS system, the bill was amended to a monthly amount - \$2,500. At the time, it was believed this would continue to ensure that those making the \$30,000 a year or less - the lowest paid public workers in our state - would not be impacted. Unfortunately, it has become clear that is not the case. Instead, any worker who makes more than \$2,500 in a given month - even if they do not make more than \$30,000 a year - has their IAP redirected for those months in which their income hits that \$2,500 threshold.

For context, the kinds of workers impacted by this include those you heard about in the hearing today (school employees and classified staff, seasonal staff at local government agencies) as well as others around the state. As noted, we represent the classified staff at Oregon's seven public universities, including Library Technicians, Systems Analysts, Food Service Staff, Custodial Staff, Office Specialists, and more. These are some of the lowest paid workers on campus, and among public workers generally. Particularly when you consider the impacts of COVID on these workers between furloughs, cut hours, layoffs, and more, this fix is sorely needed to ensure that the original intent of the bill matches the reality now and in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill, and provide additional examples of the kinds of workers who have been impacted by SB 1049 in ways that were not intended by the legislature.

Sincerely,

Courtney Graham
SEIU Local 503, OPEU