

# PROTEC17

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February 26, 2021

TO: Chair Holvey  
Vice Chair Bonham  
Vice Chair Grayber  
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

FROM: Elliot Levin, PROTEC17 Research Director and Legislative Advocate

RE: PROTEC17 Support for HB 3029


On behalf of the nearly 900 PROTEC17 represented employees of City of Portland, I write today in support of HB 3029. PROTEC17 represents a wide variety of professional and technical employees including engineers, planners, information technology specialists, and technicians who live and work in the Portland area. Additionally, we represent approximately 8,000 public sector employees across Washington State.

Under the Oregon Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), physical cards and employee signatures are needed for petitions to form a bargaining unit. While this requirement has been a barrier to workers forming a union in the past, the current realities of social distancing and remote work have exacerbated the situation. Moreover, with many employers considering the possibility of long-term remote work arrangements, it is likely that the current requirement for physical signatures will continue to be a procedural obstacle for workers exercising their rights to organize with their peers for the foreseeable future. At this point, requiring physical signatures does not lead to better outcomes in establishing the level of interest in union organizing, but simply exists as a hurdle that must be overcome.

Electronic signatures have proven safe and secure for financial transactions and business activities for years. More specifically, the National Labor Relations Act allows for electronic signatures for private sector union organizing efforts. We believe that a minor change in the PECBA to allow for electronic signatures is common sense policy to bring Oregon up to speed with the needs of modern employment situations as well as the unique health and safety challenges of the current pandemic.

We thank you for your consideration, and respectfully ask that you join PROTEC17 in supporting HB 3029.

Respectfully,



Elliot Levin  
Research Director and Legislative Advocate  
PROTEC17

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