



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 2, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of House Bill 2708 to establish the first full week of March as Classified School Employees Week.**

My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am testifying on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 87,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

SEIU Local 49 also represents janitors, who are classified employees, in public Oregon schools. Classified school employees, like our members, are imperative to the success of a functional school system. They work diligently to ensure that our students are in a safe environment to learn and that administrators and teachers can properly perform their duties. Despite being a vital component of Oregon's public school system, they are often overlooked and underrepresented, and it is time that they are acknowledged for their contributions.

SEIU Oregon urges the Committee to stand in unity with our members, and all the other essential classified school employees, and support HB 2708.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council