



February 14, 2023

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham and Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of Senate Bill 592, which will improve workplace safety and health in Oregon.**

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.

While we understand that injuries and deaths take place across every industry in Oregon, it is unacceptable for even one worker death or injury to happen from a completely preventable workplace hazard. Avoidable injuries and deaths harm our members, our families, and our communities at large. SB 592 is the solution we need to improve current safety and health practices with the goal to make all workplaces in Oregon safer. This bill will accomplish the following:

- improve reporting, strengthen penalties, and help make sure that more workplaces are safe before another injury or death occurs.
- ensure that when a death has occurred, a full inspection is done, checking that there are not related or wholly separate safety and health issues that could lead to another injury or death at the same workplace.
- strengthen inspections which we know are also an imperative component in making workplaces safer.

SEIU Oregon strongly urges the Committee to stand in unity with workers to ensure workplaces are as safe as possible by supporting SB 592.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council