



To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Anthony Castaneda, SEIU Local 503

Date: March 2, 2023

**RE: Support for HB 5026 ODHS Budget**

Dear Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama and members of the Committee

My name is Anthony Castaneda, and I am testifying on behalf of SEIU Local 503 members in **support of HB 5026** relating to the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) 2023-2025 budget. SEIU Local 503 represents over 72,000 workers across the State of Oregon. All of our members are impacted directly or indirectly by the state budget, including the frontline workers we represent at ODHS across all programs. Today I am submitting testimony specifically in support of the Division of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) budget.

Seniors and adults with disabilities rely on services provided by APD. Those services include senior services, long-term and in-home care, adults with developmental disabilities, people with physical disabilities, employment services, and protecting adults from abuse.

Investments in APD allow seniors and people with disabilities to live, work, and age in their communities with access to the care that they need and support the workers who provide those services. Our members who work for APD include case managers who work with community members and families seeking services, the staff at the Oregon Homecare Commission who administer the state's homecare and personal support worker program (also SEIU members), adult and protective services workers, and more.

When you speak with workers at APD, you will hear their deep commitment to serving Oregonians. The work they do every day is essential to our state, but right now they do not have the resources they need to meet the demand for services.

Case managers are overworked and carrying high workloads due to short staffing. They need the legislature to invest and maintain current services levels to ensure that Oregon retains the

workforce needed to provide life-changing services to our senior residents and adults with disabilities.

Lastly, I ask this Committee to make the investment in the workforce at ODHS to deliver high quality care and services to our seniors and people living with a disability by supporting HB 5026.

Thank you for your time,

Anthony Castaneda