



## Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

April 25th, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Meg Niemi, I am the President of the Service Employees International Union, Local 49 and I am testifying today on behalf of both SEIU Locals 49 and 503. Together our unions represent over 80,000 working people from property service workers, to healthcare workers, to homecare workers, to state workers, and more. This includes the hardworking frontline staff at Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette and Southwestern Oregon. Our members approach this conversation from a values standpoint, as individuals and as healthcare practitioners. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on their behalf in support of Senate Joint Resolution 33.

SEIU Oregon strongly believes access to quality, affordable, equitable health care is a basic human right; that includes access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services. Unfortunately, our healthcare system does not work for many Oregonians, including: women, people of color, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, immigrants, and working families. This situation has only been exacerbated by the Supreme Court decision to take away the right to abortion; this has worsened the public health crisis around abortion care and escalating attacks on transgender and gender non-conforming Americans across the country. It is clear we can no longer count on the Supreme Court to uphold our constitutional protections. Without further protections, people of color, LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians, and low-income families, and many of our union members, are at risk for further economic and health consequences.

SJR 33 will ensure we can make deeply personal healthcare decisions free from government interference by enshrining our core values in Oregon's constitution. Our state constitution must be clear that Oregonians have the freedom to make our own healthcare decisions and the right to access the essential care we need including family planning, contraceptives, and **abortion**. Our state constitution must be clear, every Oregonian, regardless of sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, is afforded the same protections to live a life free of government actions that discriminate, including; housing, employment, public accommodation and state services. These fundamental freedoms are overwhelmingly supported by Oregonians across the state, including our members, and they deserve the opportunity to have their voices heard. Passing SJR 33 will ensure they have that opportunity.

**SEIU Oregon urges this committee to vote in support of SJR 33.**

Thank you,

Meg Niemi  
SEIU Local 49 President