



Service Employees International Union Local 503

72,000 public services workers, care providers, and non-profit employees in Oregon.

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Mike Powers, and I serve as the Immediate Past President and a Policy Strategist with SEIU Local 503. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 2125. Thank you for this opportunity.

SEIU represents 72,000 workers across Oregon, many of whom endure extreme heat, cold, and hazardous air conditions on the job. When these conditions escalate into disasters — forcing businesses to close and workers to stay home or even evacuate — the financial impact can be devastating. Recognizing this, our union established a hardship fund to support affected union members.

For many, missing work means missing a paycheck. This is especially true for home care and personal support workers. Access to unemployment insurance when a business closes due to a disaster is a crucial lifeline. HB 2125 removes the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits in these situations, ensuring families receive immediate financial relief. This not only supports workers but also helps keep communities stable and ensures businesses have a ready workforce when they reopen—a win for everyone.

For these reasons, SEIU Local 503 urges your support for HB 2125.

Thank you.

Mike Powers

Immediate Past President

Political and Policy Strategist

SEIU Local 503