



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION

525 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232
503.236.4949
Toll Free 800.955.3352
Fax 503.238.8653
Toll Free Fax 888.595.7979
www.seiu49.org

Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary

February 10, 2025

Testimony by Yasmin Ibarra, Political Director of SEIU Local 49 In favor of SB 300-2, relating to private security services

Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

My name is Yasmin Ibarra and I am the Political Director of SEIU Local 49. SEIU supports the proposed -2 amendment to this bill as a technical fix to a successful piece of legislation.

To provide a little background, the Legislature passed HB 2527 in 2021, for the first time requiring private security companies to obtain a license from DPSST, to demonstrate use of force policies, and to train their employees to prevent workplace sexual harassment and discrimination, among other practices.

This legislation was urgently needed to address problems in the private security industry, including uneven training standards, mistreatment of private security employees by their employers, some cases of discriminatory treatment of members of the public by poorly trained private security employees, and a general lack of transparency and accountability.

This legislation has succeeded in improving training, transparency and accountability. Although we believe there is value in applying these requirements to all companies that employ private security professionals, we understand that a significant number of employers in retail, health care, education, and other sectors employ their own security officers in-house and provide robust training.

For this reason, we are open to a compromise. The -2 amendment to this bill will narrow the definition of “private security entity,” and limit the licensing and training requirements, to only those companies that are contracted by other persons to provide private security services. Companies that employ their own private security officers – such as in stores, hospitals, and schools - will no longer have to obtain a private security entity license from DPSST or comply with the related requirements.

The language that defines which companies are and are not covered by these requirements is consistent with the longstanding definition of “labor contractors” in other industries under ORS 658, which is a good approach.

Thank you.