



To: Oregon Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

From: Anthony Castaneda, SEIU 503

Date: February 12, 2025

RE: Opposition to SB 380, 405, 648, 764

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

My name is Anthony Castaneda, and I am testifying on behalf of SEIU 503 in opposition to SB 380 or any non-revenue neutral estate tax reform. SEIU 503 represents over 72,000 dedicated public workers who show up every day for Oregonians.

Let me make it clear that our opposition is rooted in the well-being of all Oregonians who rely on safe roads, emergency response services, quality healthcare, in-home nursing care and so much more. SB 380 would shift the share of the tax burden of the wealthiest and largest estates onto the backs of working families. It is difficult to support any bill on the estate tax that is not revenue neutral and would reduce services for many children, youth, and families.

When everyone pays their fair share of the tax burden, all Oregonians benefit from the public investment. If we reduce the estate tax share of the public budget – or allow for exceptions for a wealthy few - we are cutting into the state's revenue, and that revenue loss will lead to cuts to that will harm vulnerable Oregonians. These services include healthcare, education, public safety, transportation, and social services—things that are critical for maintaining our communities.

The wealthiest Oregonians and large estates that benefit from these tax breaks are the very individuals who are least likely to feel the impact of these cuts. It is the working families, the teachers, the construction workers, the nurses, and the laborers who will bear the brunt of the consequences. These working people already face high costs of living, including housing, healthcare, and education. The estate tax helps level the playing field by ensuring that the wealthiest Oregonians contribute their fair share.

We strongly urge this committee to reject any proposal to raise the threshold of the state estate tax or create exceptions for a few. The working people of Oregon—who contribute daily to the success of our state—deserve the protection and support of shared services. Let us not further tilt the scales in favor of the wealthiest while leaving working families without the support they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony Castaneda

