



February 20, 2020

To: Sentate Committee on Labor and Business

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for SB 754

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Powers, and I represent SEIU Local 503. We stand in support of SB 754.

SEIU Local 503 represents about 72,000 workers across Oregon. We are publicly funded workers who keep our roads open and drivers safe, care for the most vulnerable in our communities, manage timber and fight wildfires, support Oregon's agricultural economy, and so much more.

SB 754 aims to clarify the timeline for transfer of dues and implement an escalating fine structure for employers who are non-compliant with the Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). Additionally, the bill seeks to increase fines and penalties for employers who fail to provide the required employee information to union representatives.

While most public employers meet the timelines established in HB 4016 from the 2019 session, some employers are repeatedly late. In certain cases, employers may collect signature-authorized dues and other deductions, and fail to submit them to the union for periods exceeding 30 days, sometimes taking months.

There is a clear need to increase penalties for employers who consistently fail to make timely fund transfers. These employers are not adhering to the law, which mandates specific timelines to provide information and dues. This noncompliance creates significant barriers for labor unions in effectively onboarding new employees and informing them about job protections, benefits for themselves and their families, and their roles in improving the workplace to further the employer's mission.

This bill also recognizes that mistakes can happen by allowing for a written warning on the first violation. This ensures that any employer incurring a financial penalty has demonstrated a pattern of failing to meet their obligations under the law.

We are in communication with our colleagues regarding changes to the twin bill in the House, HB 2944, and we look forward to collaborating as we continue to refine this bill as needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Service Employees
International Union
Local 503

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