



March 4, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 228

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

SEIU Local 503 is proud to support Senate Bill 228. Our union represents direct care workers in nursing homes, Community-Based Care (CBC) facilities, and group homes. As a union of frontline caregivers, we know that the well-being of residents and the working conditions of direct care workers are deeply interconnected. Residents in RCFs and memory care settings are among our most vulnerable populations, and they deserve environments where their dignity, autonomy, and well-being are prioritized. Family councils empower residents by giving their families and representatives a collective voice to advocate for their care, safety, and quality of life. These councils are not just a benefit to residents—they also promote a healthier, more collaborative work environment for direct care workers.

When families are empowered to advocate effectively through family councils, it reduces the burden on direct care workers to navigate systemic issues alone. Family councils foster transparency, accountability, and collaboration between families and facilities, which leads to better outcomes for residents and a more supportive environment for workers. By addressing concerns collectively, family councils help reduce workplace stress and improve morale, allowing caregivers to focus on providing the highest quality of care.

SB 228 includes crucial safeguards against facility interference or retaliation, ensuring families can advocate without fear. This protection is not only vital for families but also for direct care workers, who often face similar challenges when advocating for better conditions. A facility that respects the rights of families to organize and speak out is more likely to respect the rights of workers to do the same. This bill aligns with our union's mission to protect and uplift both residents and the workers who care for them.

Family councils have already proven their value in nursing homes, providing a structured way for families to address concerns, share information, and collaborate with staff. Extending this right to RCFs and memory care settings is a logical and necessary step.

We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 228.

Sincerely,  
Courtney Graham  
Political Director, SEIU Local 503

**1-844-503-SEIU**  
MAIN OFFICE

**525 NE OREGON ST.**  
PORTLAND, OR 97232

**@SEIU503**  
FACEBOOK  
INSTAGRAM  
BLUESKY  
TWITTER

**SEIU503.ORG**