



To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business

From: Matt Swanson, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for SB 847

Date: March 6, 2025

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

My name is Matt Swanson and I am with our Union, the Oregon SEIU State Council. We represent over 85,000 workers all over our great state. We care for the most vulnerable such as our elders and children, manage forests and fight wildfires, ensure a quality food supply, keep the roads safe, and so much more. Our Union also includes retirees who dedicated their careers to state service. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for SB 847.

In summary, this bill makes the first update to the health insurance subsidies provided to the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) enrolled retirees since 1988, when the Tier One and Tier Two subsidies were set at a maximum of \$60 per month. SB 847 proposes a modest increase in the subsidy and to include all members of PERS, including those in the most recent tier called the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OSPRP).

Specifically, this legislation with the dash 1 amendment makes all PERS members eligible to receive a \$100 health insurance subsidy. It also extends health insurance benefits to families who might otherwise struggle with healthcare costs after the loss of a loved one. These crucial changes provide significant financial stability for retirees, promotes fairness and support for the families of public employees, and boosts the economic support of PERS to communities where Oregon's retirees live throughout Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We ask for your support of SB 847.

1-844-503-SEIU
MAIN OFFICE

525 NE OREGON ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97232

@SEIU503
FACEBOOK
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BLUESKY
TWITTER

SEIU503.ORG