



To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

From: Johnny Earl, President, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for HB 3789

Date: March 10, 2025

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Muñoz, Members of the Committee:

My name is Johnny Earl, and I proudly serve as the President of SEIU Local 503. Our Union represents 72,000 workers across every county in Oregon. We are the ones who clean your buildings, maintain your roads, manage your forests and fight your wildfires, protect your vulnerable elders and children, and much more. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 3789.

For too long, third parties have impersonated union officials when communicating with actual union members, often sending misleading information or posing as legitimate representatives. They use labor colors and logos to create a false appearance of authenticity. The intent behind this deception is to spread false or misleading information to persuade members to drop their union membership, ultimately weakening the protections and benefits that union membership provides. This is fraudulent conduct.

Not a week went by when I was working on the University of Oregon in Eugene Campus that a member didn't bring to my attention some of the leaflets sent to their home promising them a wage increase if they left our Union. I'm happy to let you know that most members didn't believe that faulty mailer, and often wondered how this organization got their address, and wanted our Union to make it stop. To others I often had to explain to them that this wasn't being sent out by our Union.

I even had a few members come up to me wondering when they were going to get the check promised to them by the letter sent out by our Union. On several other occasions I had to explain to members that they dropped our Union by signing the document sent to them by this organization – the Freedom Foundation. Yes, they did rejoin the union immediately, but they recognized that they were misled. Quite often, it was members who use English as a second language that were the most confused by the fraudulent mailings.

Lastly, just last week I was visiting a friend, and she had received a letter that looked like an election ballot, complete with the statement "Tampering



with Federal Mail is punishable by up to 5 years in prison”, and it had a large identification number on it. It looked very official. After a closer look, turned out the misleading mailer was not from her Union but from the Freedom Foundation. They tried to trick her into giving up her Union membership, membership that has followed generations of her family.

Tell them to stop. That's why we're here today. This is fraudulent behavior that is most effective on the underprivileged.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge your support for this legislation.