



Service Employees  
International Union  
Local 503

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1259  
Salem, OR 97309-1259

3470 Pipebend Pl NE  
Salem, OR 97301

525 NE Oregon St.  
Portland, OR 97232

1.844.503.SEIU (7348)

[www.seiu503.org](http://www.seiu503.org)

To: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business,  
And Trade

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for HB 3148

Date: March 13, 2025

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Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore, Members of the  
Committee

My name is Mike Powers, and I represent SEIU Local 503, a union advocating for 72,000 workers across our great state. Many of our members, particularly those in rural Oregon, struggle to access broadband due to both limited infrastructure and a lack of affordable, adequate devices. I appreciate the opportunity to voice our strong support for HB 3148.

Income level plays a critical role in broadband access—determining whether an area has service, whether residents can afford it, and whether they have a device capable of connecting. Low-income and rural Oregonians are disproportionately affected, often unable to secure reliable internet or the necessary technology.

With the end of the successful Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in June 2024, well over 200,000 Oregon households lost essential broadband subsidies. HB 3148 steps in to address this gap by transforming the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) into the “Oregon Lifeline.” This bill increases the state’s broadband subsidy to \$15 per month, bringing the total subsidy to \$24.95 with federal support. Additionally, it enhances the one-time device assistance benefit to \$100, helping low-income residents purchase a broadband-accessible device valued up to \$600. This support is crucial for accessing employment opportunities and conducting everyday business in the modern economy.

Many of the home care and personal support workers we represent live paycheck to paycheck while caring for Oregon’s most vulnerable residents. For them, these subsidies are not just beneficial – they are essential. Reliable internet access allows them to log work hours, communicate with employers, and participate fully in today’s digital world.

For these reasons, we strongly urge support for HB 3148.

Thank you for your time and consideration.