



To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Anthony Castaneda, SEIU 503

RE: SEIU 503 in support of HB 2061

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and members of the committee,

My name is Anthony Castaneda and I'm providing testimony on behalf of SEIU 503 in support of HB 2061 to ensure that Oregon remains focused on the recruitment and retention of qualified case managers and adult protective services (APS) workers to meet the increasing demand for services in Oregon.

SEIU Local 503 represents thousands of workers in our long-term care system, including case managers and adult protective services workers employed by the State of Oregon and local governments and the care providers who serve Oregonians.

Case managers and adult protective services workers are a critical part of this system. Oregonians rely on case managers to support them as they navigate a complex web of programs and services to access the care and support they need. We consistently hear from the workers we represent that they cannot keep up with their workloads and that high caseloads are contributing to burnout, high turnover, and a constant fear that vulnerable people will fall through the cracks.

Consumers rely on adult protective services workers to promptly and swiftly investigate allegations of abuse or harm. When caseloads are too high or there aren't enough APS workers to respond quickly, it reduces confidence in our overall long term care system and results in actual harm. The APS workers we represent consistently report that they do not feel they have the resources they need to keep up with the demand for investigations, and as a result morale is incredibly low among these workers.

HB 2061 builds on years of work by advocates and workers alike to bring attention to this workforce crisis and the urgent need for solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.