



Senator Jama, Vice-chair Bonham and members of the committee,

SEIU 503 is proud to support SB 1014, which would allow the inclusion of political party statements into translated online voters' pamphlets for Oregon, and as applicable, for counties. SEIU 503 is committed to providing language justice for our members and we see this bill as a natural extension of these values to expand information to all Oregonians regardless of the language they speak.

SEIU strives to uphold language justice in all of our work. Language justice is the right everyone has to communicate in the language in which they feel most comfortable. It is brought about by "building and sustaining multilingual spaces in our organizations and social movements so that everyone's voice can be heard both as an individual and as part of a diversity of communities and cultures." Our voting process is one of the most impactful ways for Oregonians to have their voices heard. Oregonians deserve all the information necessary to make informed decisions in the languages they understand best.

Our union represents workers from a wide diversity of language groups. We believe that when all Oregonians are fully heard and engaged, power dynamics are equalized. SEIU will continually build our internal capacity around language justice, but we understand that in order for true language justice to occur, we must also advocate for policies that work to address these language needs.

SEIU 503 encourages this committee to support SB 1014 and pass it out of committee as another policy step towards language justice in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Elsie Elling

Political & Policy Strategist

SEIU 503, OPEU