



Service Employees  
International Union  
Local 503

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To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for SB 1119

Date: April 1, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers with our Union, SEIU Local 503. SEIU Local 503 represents about 70,000 workers across Oregon, united in our vision for a society where all workers – including those from immigrant families – are treated with dignity and have access to jobs that sustain their livelihoods. We strongly support SB 1119-1, which addresses critical gaps in workplace protections by prohibiting employers from using assumed immigration status as a tool of retaliation or intimidation.

Oregon law bars many unfair labor practices. SB 1119-1 provides needed additional protection by explicitly defining and banning “unfair immigration-related practices,” such as threatening to contact federal immigration authorities to control or retaliate. This is not a hypothetical: We’ve seen cases where workers faced bullying through ICE threats. While union contracts can shield some members we represent, countless others lack such safeguards.

By prohibiting such coercive tactics, the legislation helps create a climate of trust, benefiting workers, employers, and the communities where they live. When workers know they will be measured on the quality of their work, everyone gets a safer and more productive workplace.

Recent federal policies have exacerbated fears, emboldening bad actors. This bill sends a clear message: Workplace respect transcends immigration history, whether a family arrived in 1824 or 2024. By outlawing ICE-related coercion, SB 1119-1 strengthens Oregon’s commitment to worker dignity. It’s just the right thing to do.

We urge an “aye” vote to advance this additional worker protection.

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Thank you for your consideration.