



Service Employees  
International Union  
Local 503

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To: House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for SB 847 A

Date: April 16, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers, and I am here on behalf of our Union, SEIU Local 503. We represent more than 70,000 workers across Oregon, primarily in the public and care sectors. Our union also includes many retirees who devoted their careers to public service, to all of us. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 847.

SB 847 proposes a long-overdue update to the health insurance subsidy provided to Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) retirees – marking the first such adjustment since 1988, when the Tier One and Tier Two subsidies were capped at \$60 per month, the equivalent of about \$160 today. This bill offers a modest but meaningful increase and, importantly, extends eligibility to all PERS members, including those in the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OSPRP), informally referred to as Tier 3.

SB 847 A would provide all eligible PERS retirees with a \$100 monthly health insurance subsidy. It also extends benefits to surviving family members, helping families manage healthcare costs during what is often an incredibly difficult time. These changes offer much-needed financial stability, promote fairness across all PERS tiers, and provide a boost to local economies throughout Oregon, where our retirees continue to live and contribute.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. We respectfully urge your support for SB 847.