

Testimony of Senator Chris Gorsek
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Re: HB 2944 – The PECBA Accountability Act
April 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the committee:

For the record, I'm Senator Chris Gorsek, and I'm here to express my support for House Bill 2944.

This bill is about fairness, accountability, and following the law. In 2019, we passed HB 2016, which established clear timelines and expectations for public employers to provide employee information and remit dues to unions in a timely fashion. Most employers have complied. But a small number continue to delay these remittances—sometimes for months—which undermines the intent of the law and creates real barriers for public employees to organize and advocate for themselves.

HB 2944 builds on the timelines already established by HB 2016. It clarifies expectations and introduces reasonable, escalating penalties for employers who fail to comply. Specifically, it holds employers accountable for:

- Providing new hire information within 10 calendar days,
- Updating employee information every 120 days, and
- Timely remittance of dues and other authorized deductions.

We see this as a necessary housekeeping bill—intended to close loopholes and ensure the law functions as it was intended. It avoids unnecessary litigation by reinforcing enforcement through the Employment Relations Board. The dash-1 amendments also remove the private right of action and designate the Wage Security Fund to receive fines, offering a fair and targeted solution.

We are continuing to work with stakeholders like the League of Oregon Cities to ensure the fee structure is appropriate for smaller jurisdictions.

After the Janus decision, which significantly weakened labor rights nationwide, Oregon has worked to protect public employees' ability to organize and bargain collectively. HB 2944 continues that work—ensuring timely information and dues transfers are not optional but part of a fair and enforceable process.

I urge your support.

Thank you.