



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 HB 2944 A

Date: May 1, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers, and I'm here on behalf of SEIU Local 503, which represents more than 70,000 public employees and care providers across the state of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of House Bill 2944 A.

While most public employers fulfill their legal obligations by submitting dues, rosters, and deductions on time, a small number continue to fall behind. This bill is designed to bring structure and accountability to those outliers — not to punish, but to ensure consistency and fairness for Oregon's public workers, and to fully respect the collective bargaining process.

HB 2944 A introduces civil penalties for employers who have a repeated history of noncompliance with collective bargaining requirements. At the same time, it gives the Employment Relations Board the flexibility to consider extenuating circumstances when determining penalties, recognizing that not all delays are intentional or avoidable.

The bill also clarifies how public employees can authorize union dues and fee deductions, including electronically or by phone, and lays out clear processes for addressing unfair labor practices. It ensures both employers and unions understand their responsibilities and obligations.

This legislation doesn't create new burdens — it simply strengthens the enforcement of rules that already exist. It's about accountability. Oregon workers should be able to trust that when they make the choice to support their union, their employer will honor that choice reliably and on time.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 2944 A.

Thank you for your time and consideration.