

Subject: Opposition to HB 3789 – Protecting Workers' Rights to Information and Free Association

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3789. This bill would severely restrict union members' access to important information about how their dues are spent, and it threatens their ability to exercise their First Amendment rights—specifically, the right to opt out of union membership.

Nearly five years ago, I received a mailer from the Freedom Foundation that opened my eyes to how my union dues—approximately \$90 per month—were being used. I learned that a significant portion was going toward political lobbying in Washington, D.C., in support of causes I deeply oppose. This was information I had never received from my local union and which they remain unwilling to disclose to this day.

Armed with that knowledge, I made the personal decision to end my 15-year membership—exercising the right affirmed by the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* ruling. That choice has been transformative for me.

Since opting out, I've attended professional development events where I've met and worked with staff from the Freedom Foundation. I've found them to be professional, principled, and committed to empowering public employees like myself. Their support has reignited my passion for teaching and affirmed my decision.

Every public employee deserves access to a full spectrum of information—from the Freedom Foundation or any organization willing to share it—so they can make informed decisions about their representation and finances. HB 3789 seeks to limit that access and silence alternative voices. This is not just unnecessary—it's harmful.

Please do not support this bill. Let public employees decide for themselves, based on all the facts.

Sincerely,

Jon Small

Tigard, OR