

Submitter: Branden Walters
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3789

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

I am writing this testimony regarding my opposition on HB 3789. Oregon already has a law in place protecting both individuals and businesses from false representation with the exact same fines that are established in this bill. When Oregon law already allows legal action against an individual for these heinous crimes, why should the unions be above the pre-existing laws? Our country was built on the foundations of the right to freedom of speech, and quite honestly it is very concerning to see a bill that would oppress organizations and individuals that strive to provide employees with the knowledge on how to exercise all of their legal rights regarding opting out of union dues.

HB 3789 is yet another bill that has been pushed through this legislative session by unions in an attempt to gain excessive legal rights and administrative powers over private entities and employees who aren't unionized. Similar concerns have been noted in other bills being lobbied by SEIU that would conflict with multiple principal agencies such as BOLI and DHS. HB 3789 mirrors similar concerns with these other bills such as HB 3838 and HB 2548, which would respectively establish workforce standards boards for the long-term care and agricultural fields by using unnecessary amounts of administrative power to directly conflict with laws that are already in place through the State. Just like HB 3789, these bills are being proposed as 'for the workers', but would cause undue hardships on both private employers and employees in a clear attempt to mass unionize multiple workforces by any means necessary. All of these bills are facing mass opposition from the public; yet are still being pushed through the legislative session by a majority vote. From my time spent looking into this bill, there hasn't even been contextual evidence or proof that shows any examples of what this bill is trying to prevent. Other testimonies that are in opposition to this bill describe the same concern, yet we have not been given a clear example of what 'falsely impersonating a union representative' looks like.

HB 3789 provides no context on how fining organizations such as Freedom Foundation \$6250 per perceived violation would directly benefit workers. The bill has no clear definition of 'plaintiff' and where that financial compensation would end up. This bill also fails to provide clear definitions, examples, or guidelines of what these could result in a violation beyond broad contexts such as 'verbal or written communications' and 'misrepresentation'. If passed, HB 3789 will absolutely cause undue hardships on any entity or individual who disagrees with how unions operate

through financial and legislative oppression. To be completely honest, I wholeheartedly feel that I cannot share my honest thoughts in a testimony without fears and concerns about how I may be retaliated against.

Chair and Members of the Committee, I sincerely urge you to vote 'NO' on HB 3789 in order to ensure that we as Americans can maintain our rights to freedom of speech.