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Testimony HB3789

Good morning! I was raised in a true union household, my dad was a steward in IBEW and we spent every Christmas and many weekends at the IBEW hall or the VFW hall my entire childhood. That's why I eagerly joined the union at ODOT as soon as I started my employment there. I recognized fairly quickly that it was not my dad's union, or representative of any valid union. ODOT members, the cash cow of SEIU were not represented by the "union". SEIU 503 changed drastically under the leadership of Heather Conroy. I became involved in the Board of Directors because I am an optimist and i thought with proper leadership, it could be fixed. I moved up to the Board of Directors Representative for the ODOT Coalition, and found that this body is in name only, and does not have the power to bring SEIU 503 back from the corrupt corporation it had become. Heather Conroy solicited home care workers to join with promises if they voted her way. ODOT had 10 or more voting members in the forum while Heather made each home care worker a unit of its own, flooding the forum with 30 or more additional voting units for Home care. First of all, there is another branch of SEIU that is for health care workers, but Heather needed to squash to movement to clean up the corruption in the 503 branch once and for all. When members who questioned the facts around the lack of representation, the desire to renegotiate dues based on the level of service, the changing of bylaws without bringing it to the surface for votes, they would turn our microphones off. There was evidence of closed door meetings with state management agreeing to accept non fully paid health care 6 months before bargaining started, with no union members in the room.

It became clear to me that this was not a union, but a corrupt corporation squeezing money out of people who could not afford it and were not represented in exchange for that money. There was no changing it, no matter how optimistic I am.

As soon as Janus was announced, I ended my union membership because I finally could and I could not be happier. I believe in unions, real unions, but this corporation is not a real union. They are out for their own gain and don't give two cents for the hard working members that were forced to fill their coffers with no benefit whatsoever.

Opt Out was late to the game when they contacted me. I was already spreading the news that people could quit the union and nothing would change for them and they would save money and their personal time that was spent defending employees because the union staff did none of that, it was all on steward's personal time. Evenings and weekends that should have been spent with family.

While they were late to the party, they have been hugely instrumental in getting the truth out to contradict SEIU 503 lies that they have to stay. Opt out is not the culprits here, the fake union that is a wolf hiding in sheep's clothing that you should be after. This is just a corrupt corporation, desperate to stay in the money, attacking the heroes here to spread the truth to indentured servants who have been freed and don't know it.

Most of those who dropped out of SEIU 503 would jump at the opportunity to be a member of a real member owned member run union, and even tried to get Teamsters in to represent them, but the leach has a strong hold.

Thank you for your time.

Katie