



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 13, 2026

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alberto Gallegos, and I am providing testimony on behalf of SEIU Oregon in opposition to SB 1514, which would roll back the current state law requiring that local ordinances regulating camping must be reasonable.

SEIU Oregon represents over 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington. We believe that every Oregonian should be able to afford rent and have access to a place they call home without having to put in jeopardy their ability to pay for health care, food, and other necessities. Unfortunately, as we all know, our state is facing a housing crisis—which is getting worse every year—and that belief is not a reality for many Oregonians, like our members.

Our members are janitors, security officers, maintenance and custodial workers; they are healthcare, homecare, and personal support workers; they are ODOT, DHS, and BOLI workers. Our members clean, protect, and maintain your buildings; they care for our seniors, people with disabilities, and the general public; our workers make Oregon work. And the reality is that these same workers who provide Oregon's critical public services, cannot afford to provide their families with a stable home.

Instead of rolling back state law and criminalizing poverty, we should be focused on passing policy that will ensure that everyone has equal access to affordable housing. Believe us when we say that our members are not unhoused by choice: we have homecare workers who have taken care of our vulnerable communities for decades, living in their cars; union members who work two jobs and STILL can't afford a roof over their heads. They are unhoused because rent is unaffordable, wages are stagnant, and our housing supply is insufficient.

Punishing workers for being unhoused is basically kicking them when they're down. Instead, let's extend a helping hand and prioritize solutions that will keep people in their homes and that will create a direct pipeline for long-term housing for people who are unhoused.

SEIU Oregon strongly urges this committee to oppose SB 1514.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council