



February 12, 2013

Chair Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Senate Health Care Committee

Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the Committee:

As the collective voice for thousands of health care providers who are critical to the daily living and overall health of our neighbors and communities, I'm writing to you today in support of SB 169.

In 2007 the Legislature demonstrated that it understood how important it was to learn the full scope of the impact Diabetes has on our state - and citizens' pocketbooks. The Strategic Plan, crafted by DHS looked ahead through this current biennium and sketched out recommendations to help you manage both the health and the budgets of Oregonians. We hope you'll consider SB 169 the continuation of a great program - fulfilling one of the final action items listed: Based on progress made in the prior biennia, recommendations for statutory change would be determined by current gaps and priorities.

We are a part of the Oregon Diabetes Coalition because it is time to take this conversation to the next level and build upon the goals of addressing underlying factors that contribute to type 2 diabetes, such as obesity and un-healthy life choices. As you all are aware, type 1 diabetes has no known prevention techniques. Too often do our members see patients who are suffering from the adverse affects of all types of diabetes, including pre- and gestational.

SEIU members across the state are the frontline assistants to the those who struggle to manage their diabetes. Our caregivers are often the people helping to check glucose levels and administer insulin; *managing diabetes is a hurdle to health that often complicates itself with secondary factors that our workers help to mitigate, as well.*

Providing the resources and education for Oregonians living with diabetes is critical to their ability to manage it; the state has the ability once again with SB 169 to help manage our collective struggle with this disease, and the costs associated with it.

Sincerely,

Megan Moyer

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146
www.seiu503.org