

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, SEIU Local 503
RE: HB 3363-A
DATE: May 15, 2013

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Committee:

For the record, I'm Stacy Michaelson, representing Service Employees International Union Local 503. Thank for the opportunity to testify on HB 3363-A today.

SEIU was neutral on the original bill, and we support the intent of improving dependency hearings for families involved in the child welfare system. We do have an amendment requesting that one additional seat be added to the work group created by the current version of the bill. As front-line child welfare workers have a unique perspective on areas for improvement within DHS child welfare policy, as well as rationale for certain current procedures, we believe that adding a seat for them on the work group will enhance the discussion of juvenile court dependency proceedings.

Our members at DHS take great pride in the work they do to support Oregon families, and they see this work group as an opportunity to improve both outcomes for families and the system in which our members work. Thank you again for the opportunity to raise this issue, and for your consideration of our proposed amendment.