



Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee – Chair Senator Roblan, Senator Gelser; Senator Knoop, Senator Kruse, Senator Baertschiger, Senator Beyer and Senator Hass.

From: SEIU Local 503 – Len Norwitz

Date: February 26th 2015

Re: Senate Bill 473

Chair Roblan and Members of the Senate Education Committee - The Service Employees International Union – SEIU Local 503 strongly supports the proposed legislation in Senate Bill 473 to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of demographic data already collected by universities, colleges and community colleges. We believe that this is a great idea - as it was last session as brought forward by the Oregon Student Association and Basic Rights Oregon with then Representative Gelser’s sponsorship.

As you know SEIU Local 503 represents about 4,400 classified student service workers on the seven public university campuses. Requiring each public university, community college or other institution of higher education to allow students, faculty and staff to identify sexual orientation on forms used to collect demographic data – will be an added resource for all of our work in better understanding and serving our members; as well as students, faculty and Oregonians who use our system of public higher education. It will be added resource for our Local as well.

Let us know if we can be of any help in the implementation of this identification and collection system as we will be watching and advocating for this as it continues through the legislative process.

Thanks again for your committee’s leadership in moving this forward.

Sincerely,

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