



March 9, 2015

To: Members of the Senate Workforce

Fr: Matt Swanson, SEIU Oregon State Council

SEIU locals 49 and 503 Support Senate Bill 718

The Service Employees International Union represents over 65,000 workers in the state of Oregon. Many of these workers are employed in industries like janitorial or other services where wage and hour abuses often occur. When workers are denied the pay that they are owed it hurts the economy, denies workers fair pay and creates an uneven playing field for employers who follow the law.

Overview of SB 718/HB 3083 [From the Northwest Worker Justice Project]

Give workers tools to expose employer wrongdoing. This bill would:

- Make it easier for workers who do the essential functions of a business to show they are employees of that business.
- Put teeth behind employers' obligation to provide accurate and detailed pay stubs
- Require employers to explain in writing why a worker was let go if the worker asks

Reduce barriers so workers can get help and recover the wages they are owed.

Workers face significant challenges in recovering their wages, including finding legal assistance to help them navigate the complicated statutory system and collecting on judgments even after they prove their rights were violated. This bill would:

- Ensure attorney fees provisions do not create barriers to workers standing up to enforce their rights, consistent with other areas of employment law.
- Standardize definition of wages to clarify what workers are entitled to receive.
- Expand the ability of workers to get a lien for unpaid wages on employers' property.