

SEIU Local 503 Supports House Bill 2228
Melissa Unger, Political Director

Chair Barker, Members of the Committee,

SEIU Local 503 support HB 2228. This is a very important bill for our care givers. SEIU Local 503 represents over 25,000 people that care for children, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with developmental disabilities. Our members care for people in their home and others work in facilities, including nursing homes and facilities for the developmental disabilities.

This bill streamlines the process for background checks. Many people who do care-giving work in different settings at the same time; some workers are homecare workers and also do work at a nursing home or facility for people with developmental disabilities, others work at two nursing homes, and still others care for seniors during the day and do childcare at night. Right now they need a different background check for every job. One member who works at a nursing home recently told me that he went through three different background checks in 6 months. This costs the state money, facilities money, and workers money and it is inefficient.

We have been working for four years to find a balance between the need to streamline background checks and protect the privacy of the individuals. We believe that the time and effort put into this has produced a strong bill and with national funding, we are at a place to move forward. This bill will be a welcome change to the providers and the workers and save the state money. We urge your support.

Thank you.