

Oregon State Council



Stronger Together

**Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council**

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**March 24, 2015**

**To:** Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

**Fr:** Louis Desitter, Political Organizer, SEIU Oregon State Council

**Re:** Support House Bill 3025

SEIU 503 would like to express its support for HB 3025, and giving a fair chance at employment to all Oregonians.

As an organization that represents over 65,000 people in industries from health care to property services to the public sector, the current way businesses screen people with prior convictions affects many of our members, their friends, and their family.

Most people when they return to society after having paid their debt, want to reintegrate as best they can. Key to their reintegration is their ability to support themselves, and any dependents they might have, through steady employment.

HB 3025 would ensure that people with criminal histories have a fair chance at employment, while simultaneously protecting our vulnerable populations. Similar policies has been implemented throughout the country - including in Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, Hawaii, and Minnesota to name a few - and has been shown to effectively give people a second chance at success.

Once someone has paid their debt, the Box does nothing but effectively stop them from making a better life for themselves and their families. The time has come to give a fair chance for all, and Ban the Box in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Louis De Sitter  
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