



SEIU Local 503 Testimony, HB 2070-1
Melissa Unger, Political Director
April 9, 2015

We support HB 2070-1. We believe that right now this is about priorities and how we invest in the programs that matter to Oregonians. Earlier today we released a report with a broad group of partners about the critical services that Oregonians rely on and we believe that Gain Share is one the programs that should be reviewed to make sure we are investing in the programs that matter. We believe HB 2070-1 moves us in the right direction of re-evaluating the ballooning cost of the program.

We represent thousands of members that provide services for the most vulnerable and there is a real gap in funding for those services right now.

Without additional resources, we will face a funding gap that will come at the cost of quality care for our most vulnerable. Every family caregiver wants to know that if their mother, father, child is going to have quality care, but without additional resources that will not be able to happen, there will be real cut backs that impact people's lives. In addition, with case load growth, the gap could increase and we need to prioritizing what we want state dollars to be funding.

Right now, there is over 2000 people on the waiting list for Employment Related Daycare. This is a jobs program. ERDC helps people go back work and provide for their family. With a waiting list, we are preventing many moms from being able to find safe and reliable daycare while they work to provide for their family.

We hope that we can continue this conversation about how we invest in the services, whether is it investing in our kids or the most vulnerable, these are the services Oregonians need and we believe that should be what is being considered as we redesign the gain share program.

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