



**Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU**

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## **VOTE YES ON HB 3391**

### **Protect Child Welfare workers from harassment and stalking**

Over the past several years, the DHS has seen an increase in the both the number and the severity of threats made against state workers, specifically Child Welfare workers.

#### What does HB 3391 do?

- This bill allows the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide legal assistance to DHS employees when their personal safety is threatened as a result of their work.
- When all other resources and procedures have been exhausted, a child welfare worker will work with their manager to submit a written request to the Attorney General's office for assistance. This request must be approved by the Director of DHS or her designee.
- This assistance is limited to child welfare workers who are the subject of repeated and unwanted contact by another person that causes alarm or coercion to the employee.

DHS Child Welfare workers are tasked with keeping children safe and, if necessary, removing them from harmful home environments. These workers go into unsafe, emotionally charged situations, often without back up, to respond to reports of children in danger. They need to know that DHS and the AG's office are able to assist them should they need it as a result of the work they do.

HB 3391 passed out of the House by a vote of 45-3.

## **VOTE YES ON HB 3391**