



Amie Roblar

SEIU Local 503 Supports House Bill 2228A

SEIU Local 503 represents over 25,000 people that care and support children, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with developmental disabilities. Our members care for people in their homes and others work in facilities, including nursing homes and facilities for the developmentally disabled.

HB 2228A streamlines the process for background checks. Many workers provide similar care-giving work in different settings as they piece together enough hours to earn a modest income. Some workers are homecare workers and also work at nursing home facilities for people with developmental disabilities; others may work at two nursing homes, and still others may care for seniors during the day and provide childcare at night.

Right now many workers are required to complete and pass a different background check for each job they have, even if those jobs are similar in nature. A nursing home member recently reported that he went through three different background checks over the course of 6 months. By allowing voluntary retention of identifying information and providing real-time updates to state agencies and employers, HB 2228A ensures the background check process is streamlined, efficient, and thorough. . The current process costs the state, facilities, and workers money.

We have been working for years to find a balance between the need to streamline background checks and protect the privacy of individuals. HB 2228A achieves that goal. **By creating a voluntary system, where people can choose to have their identifying information held on file, privacy is protected and efficiencies are achieved.** This bill is a welcome change to providers and workers and will save the state money.