



Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

Front-Line Workers Say YES on HB 4067 Whistle Blower Protection

SEIU represents front-line workers in public and non-profit settings. Our members have experienced first-hand the retaliation that often comes from managers when workers expose misuse of taxpayer dollars, abuse and neglect, or outright criminal activity.

Front-line workers provide quality public services including providing quality care to children, the elderly, and Oregonians with disabilities and mental illness.

In recent year's workers at the Oregon Youth Authority uncovered terrible mismanagement that has led to an overhaul of the agency and improved treatment for at-risk youth.

Custodial staff at the Department of Administrative Services uncovered evidence of fraudulent activity associated with a contractor who had received a sweetheart detail.

In both instances workers – even with the protection of a union contract – feared for their jobs and for other types of reprisal.

In the non-profit setting the situation is often worse. Workers that witness abuse are too often intimidated into not reporting this sort of abuse. We ran across this with workers who tried to organize a union at a group home for Oregonians with developmental disabilities.

HB 4067 takes important steps forward to protect whistleblowers in the public and non-profit settings. The sponsors and the committee vote both indicate the bi-partisan support needed to improve the quality of public services and the quality of care.

We urge a YES vote on HB 4067.