



Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Committee. Oregon AFSCME supports SB 367 and we thank Senator Hansell for helping come up with a solution to a serious problem faced by a number of our members who serve in Correctional institutions around the state. We represent t over 3,000 workers in most of the State prisons. They work under extreme stress and for long hours among inmates they cannot trust. Regularly they are attacked with bodily fluid or bitten by inmates. These incidents lead to more than just physical attacks. Our members are subjected to mental and emotional stress because these attacks could spread communicable diseases. SB 367 allows our members to know if they have been subjected to these communicable diseases. We need SB 367 so that our officers can find out right away if they need to be worried about contracting Hepatitis or other serious dieses.

Right now when an attack happens members are forced to take expensive prophylactic drugs to protect themselves. In many cases the status of these inmates is already known to the institution and we would simply like to make sure our members know if they need to be concerned. SB 367 only triggers when circumstance warrants and only to protect our members. This measure is about making sure our members, who already have incredible stressful jobs, have peace of mind and can continue their job.

Respectfully Submitted by

Joe Baessler
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