



March 14, 2017

Chair Jeff Barker
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Barker and members of the Committee:

I am here today to testify in support of HB 2345. My name is Stacy Cowan and I am with SEIU, Local 503. We represent thousands of workers statewide, including the front line workers at DHS Child Welfare.

It is essential that child welfare staff has access to legal representation and that we decrease caseworkers legal responsibilities, most importantly to protect children and improve outcomes for families. But it is also important in a time when caseloads are too high to allow staff the time they need to do their work effectively.

This legislation is an important piece of the puzzle in evaluating how caseworkers spend their time and how we can move towards an improved child welfare system.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 2345.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146
www.seiu503.org