



April 6, 2017

Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Olson, members of the committee, my name is Kyndall Mason. I am a policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, and I am here today to testify in regards to House Bill 3359. We believe this bill is a step in the right direction for long term care workers, both those of whom work in facilities or in their own homes as Adult Foster Home providers.

Long term care work is one of the fastest growing needs in our state, and our nation, as our population is aging rapidly and more people are relying on services. It will prove crucial that we, as a state, have a well trained workforce ready to provide the services many Oregonians will need. Currently, SEIU Local 503 represents more than 9,000 people who work in either long term care facilities or in the Adult Foster Homes in which they also live. As the need has increased, the demand for accessible and quality training has also increased. These care providers want better access to more quality training, and we want to do the work to make sure that happens.

As the legislature works to increase training and quality services, it must also find a way to increase wages. The need for quality long term care is going to continue to grow, and we must find ways to make sure that jobs that come along with the work are good jobs that can support a family. We also believe that we should look for ways to develop a potential certification process and workforce ladder for the thousands of women who do this work.

SEIU has been working to increase training through each contract we've bargained. We feel it's crucial that we do the work to make sure the pillars of our long term care system, which are independence, choice and dignity, are being facilitated by a well trained and properly compensated workforce. We owe it to consumers and workers to make these changes.

We support this bill, and want to make sure this conversation continues, long after we pass legislation encouraging workforce training and development.

Thank you for your time today.

Kyndall Mason
Political & Policy Strategist, SEIU Local 503

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

1800.452.2146
www.seiu503.org