



## Service Employees International Union Local 503

*More than 55,000 public workers, care providers, and non-profit employees in Oregon.*

### **Shaun Parkman Testimony in Opposition to HB 2778 House Health Care Committee April 14, 2017**

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee:

My name is Shaun Parkman. I am a member of SEIU 503 and I am the vice-chair of the Public Employee's Benefit Board. SEIU represents 65,000 workers including public workers and care givers. Over 25,000 of those workers receive their benefits through PEBB. I am testifying today in opposition to HB 2778.

This bill HB 2778 would tie PEBB's hands and prevent the board from making decisions that could lead to better health outcomes, improved quality and lower cost.

The bill requires any PEBB plan that covers chiropractic care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, acupuncture, massage therapy, speech therapy or hearing therapy to do so without a prior authorization. It also importantly forbids PEBB from imposing copayment, coinsurance, or deductibles greater than those required for other physician services.

This takes away the board's ability to make decisions about different types of services. For example, massage therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy have more scientific evidence behind them than chiropractic care and acupuncture. So at some point, the Board might want to discuss introducing differences in copays among some of the services in order to encourage or discourage some over the other. In other words, not all medical services are created equal, so it shouldn't be in statute that they be treated equally. It is just one less lever we have to meet the 3.4% cap.

This also contradicts our patient-centered primary care home model (PCPCH) because it disallows a coordination process with the primary care home.

PEBB has done a lot of work over the last several years to keep its medical inflation rate low without sacrificing quality health care. I would urge this Committee to help PEBB continue on this trajectory and oppose HB 2788.