



**SEIU Supports SB 1040
House Business and Labor
May 9, 2017**

SEIU supports SB 1040 to provide consistency for workers across the state. SEIU represents over 70,000 workers statewide. Over 18,000 of those workers are private sector workers, janitors, hospital workers, nursing home workers, and non-profit workers. Many of these workers cross jurisdictions but are in the same company. One example is Kaiser, where we have workers in multiple counties and cities across Oregon, they have a strong union and a strong relationship with their employer. Local government changing the labor laws could impact workers in other counties without any say from those workers or jurisdictions. A statewide policy will ensure consistency and predictability for businesses and the workers.

Over the last 20 years there has been an assault on the rights of workers to organize themselves into a union. Through of weakening of national labor laws and the willingness for employers to pay penalties instead of let workers have a voice on the job, workers have more hurdles to form a union than ever before.

The campaign against workers continues with the National Right to Work Coalition and the Freedom Foundation who are both opposing SB 1040. In spite of the clear proof that unions lift wages for families and decrease inequities in pay, organizations like the Freedom Foundation want to weaken the ability for workers to come together and advocate for quality jobs. Instead they want to continue the current economic trends into low-wage, no benefit work that many large corporations have taken advantage of.

SB 1040 would make sure that Oregon has a statewide policy that workers are able to come together and form a union. When workers democratically make the decision to form a union, everyone pays because everyone benefits through higher pay and benefits from having a voice. SEIU supports SB 1040 to create a predictable statewide policy.

Thank you for your time.

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