



May 24, 2017

Chair Chuck Riley
Senate Committee on General Government
And Accountability
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Riley and members of the Committee:

Chair Williamson, members of the committee:

My name is Stacy Cowan and I am with SEIU Local 503. SEIU Local 503 is the union of nearly 65,000 Oregonians doing more than 500 different jobs in 85 state, local government and non-profit agencies and care facilities. I am here in support of HB 2332A.

Prior to participating in the workgroup created in 2015, we surveyed our members to ask about their experience with staffing ratios. The results came back with a good mix of both positive experiences and challenges.

Some folks talked about how the staffing ratios had eliminated unnecessary layers of management and prioritized front line staffing. Other folks talked about how the staffing ratios had reduced supervisory positions to the point that folks did not have the support they needed to do their job efficiently.

The common theme was that folks supported having a ratio. Some folks like 11 to 1, other felt their agency needed flexibility to determine a different ratio.

Our main goals going into the workgroup were to make recommendations to allow agencies flexibility when 11 to 1 was not the right ratio for their line of work, but just as importantly to not roll back efficiencies that had been achieved. We also want to ensure a high level of accountability and transparency in the process. We believe this has been achieved with the HB2332A.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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