



February 14, 2018

Chair Holvey, members of the committee:

My name is James Carter. I am a public employee and a member of SEIU Local 503. I work for the Department of Revenue as a Tax Auditor 2. I come here not representing the Department of Revenue, but to represent myself and my colleagues. I am here to testify in support of HB 4123 and to share with you the personal impact of the passage of SB 1067 last session in regards to the elimination of double coverage for public employees.

The passage of SB 1067 took away my families ability to be double covered with health insurance. I have younger children who are active and are also in sports. This makes it to where we do actually use our insurance, but only when necessary, for injuries, accidents, illnesses, etc. Once this policy goes into effect in 2020, the cost to take my family to the doctor will go up. I will be paying more out of pocket, which is going to make some visits not possible.

I have dedicated 12 years of my life to being a public servant. I choose this career path although the pay was less than the private sector, due in large part to the health benefit.

I have a co-worker who is married and has dependents. This co-worker's spouse works in the private sector and both my co-worker and their spouse have insurance for each other. With the passage of SB 1067 I will no longer be able to have insurance on my spouse or children. This essentially creates an unequal pay for the exact same job between my co-worker and myself. Although we both have the same experience and time with the state, I am receiving \$1,500 less in benefits/pay than my co-worker.

HB 4123 will grandfather in current public sector workers and only eliminate double coverage for new workers beginning in 2020. Honestly, I still think that is bad policy. But it is better than what we are currently facing. Changing the rules in the middle of the game all just to save a few bucks is a terrible idea. I think you will see the fall out is going to be worse than the benefit you gained from a few dollars saved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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