



January 22, 2019

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Heard, members of the committee. My name is Kyndall Mason, I am a political and policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, focusing on long term care. SEIU represents more than 27,000 long term care workers, which includes more than 9,000 personal support workers, as well as DSPs in two group homes serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of those workers and in opposition to a small portion of this bill.

In general, SB 19 expands the mandatory reporting requirements, which we agree with and cleans up statute so that ODDS can be better aligned with federal regulations and remove offensive language. SEIU supports all of these updates to statute and is happy to see them taking place.

In Section 7 of SB 19, changes seem to delete the requirement to provide I/DD support services to people with an IQ between 70-75," who also have impairment in adaptive behavior". This change is not only alarming because of the number of people who could lose supports, but also because of the number of workers who could lose hours and/or their jobs when their clients no longer qualify for support services.

We are open to more dialogue about how to change this statute in a way that ensures people will continue have access to the support services they deserve.

Thank you for your time today, and for considering this piece of legislation.

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