

Chairs Nosse and Beyer, members of the committee,

For the record my name is Christie Clague, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I work for Vocational Rehabilitation at the East Portland office. I've worked at Vocational Rehabilitation for 12 years. I love the mission of my agency; assisting someone with a disability that is a barrier to their getting or keeping a job. I love that I get to tell people Vocational Rehabilitation looks at them. Should someone with the same disability be at our office the services they receive won't necessarily be the same. All too often people think that government only sees them in a certain way. Voc Rehab looks at the individual person.

Each week I present the open Orientation that a person must attend to start the process of receiving services. The opportunity to talk with the people at Orientation is a great part of my week. From the young man who had a stroke and can only speak very haltingly to the person with a learning disability to the person with a mental health diagnosis having a job is important. Not just for a paycheck but for the satisfaction that it gives a person knowing they are contributing to their family and their community.

Thank you,

Christie Clague  
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