



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
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May 16th, 2019

Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, members of the
Committee:

For the record my name is Ethan, and I am testifying on behalf of SEIU Local 49. SEIU Local 49 represents more than 13,000 members throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our members include licensed practical nurses, respiratory therapists, radiologic technologists, nursing assistants, phlebotomists, laboratory assistants, customer service representatives, food service workers, housekeeping and many other healthcare classifications.

We know from our members experiences that health care workers are more likely to be injured as a result of workplace violence than other workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, these serious incidents are 4 times as common with health care workers.

We support SB 823 because health care workers should feel safe from retaliation if they report assault. In a survey of over 4500 nurses referenced by OSHA, only 69 percent of physical assaults and 71 percent of non-physical assaults were reported to a manager. They list reasons for underreporting as including a fear of retaliation.

SEIU Local 49 has long participated in workgroups and conversations about these critical issues. We think is is particularly critical that we reinforce that reprisal against employees for reporting incidents is an unlawful employment practice.

Health care professionals can't keep us safe if they themselves aren't safe on the job. If we don't want to risk burnout, exacerbating existing staffing problems at health care facilities across our state, we must take action.

Thank you for your time and we encourage a yes vote on SB 823.

Ethan Krow