



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council
6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

March 9, 2021

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 613. My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon State Council. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 85,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

SEIU supports SB 613 in order to allow the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) a second look at arbitral awards given to officers following arbitration. As the bill is written, this will ensure that DPSST is allowed to overturn all arbitral awards that go against 'public policy' or do not allow for the administration of justice.

The current system of arbitration has routinely failed to hold officers properly accountable for their actions, and has therefore failed the members of the community that it was meant to protect. This lack of accountability and bad arbitral awards have created a negative culture of conduct, which has consequently led to an inefficient system. Our members, along with other members of the community, have little to no trust in the current system. We have to change that. We need a system that people can believe in. We need a system that will begin to restore trust and faith back in policing.

We understand that regaining the trust of the community is going to be a journey that will take some time; however, we believe that this bill is a step in the right direction towards that end. Therefore, SEIU urges you to support SB 613.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU, Oregon State Council