



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

February 3, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Shriver and I represent the SEIU Oregon State Council. SEIU is an 85,000 member union in Oregon and SW Washington and a 2 million member union nationally. SEIU supports SB 70 because it will elevate Regional Health Equity Coalitions to support health equity efforts in Oregon.

SEIU is a very diverse union representing health care workers, property services workers, homecare and personal support workers, nursing home and nonprofit workers, janitors, public workers, and many others. Sixty percent of SEIU 503's members earn less than \$40,000/year, and over 30 percent of SEIU 49 members identify as people of color. SEIU members communicate in five different languages.

SEIU has been working on access to quality and affordable health care for our members and their families for over 50 years, and eliminating racial disparities in health care is a driving force for our work in health care. It is clear that our healthcare system does not work for many Oregonians, including women, people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, immigrants, and working families. Regional Health Equity Coalitions are a foundational investment that will support health equity by building on the inherent strengths of local communities to meaningfully involve them in identifying sustainable, long-term solutions.

SB 70, along with HB 2760, will standardize, expand, and fund the Regional Health Equity Coalition model in Oregon. We urge the committee to pass the bill.