



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

February 22, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

For the record, 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. I am here today in support of SB 711.

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. The majority of our members are women, including 71% of SEIU 503's 72,000 workers and 62% of SEIU 49's 15,000 workers. SEIU has been working to improve access to quality and affordable health care for our members and their families for over 50 years.

It is well known that companies often charge more for consumer products aimed at women, creating what has been called a "pink tax." SB 711 would ask the Department of Consumer and Business Services to use their existing prescription drug price transparency infrastructure and report on the comparative cost of prescription drugs used primarily by women. SEIU supports this review, which will help us better understand whether women are paying disproportionately more for prescription drugs and the extent of the problem. With this information, we would be able to consider policy solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 711.