



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 5, 2026

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1523, which is designed to bridge the digital divide for tenants and remove electronic barriers to housing.

My name is Alberto Gallegos, and I am providing testimony on behalf of SEIU Oregon, which is composed of two locals: Local 503 and Local 49. Together, we represent over 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington who serve as janitors, security officers, maintenance and custodial workers, healthcare and homecare workers, and public employees at agencies such as ODOT, DHS, and BOLI. Our members clean, protect, and maintain your buildings; care for seniors and people with disabilities; and provide critical public services that keep Oregon running.

We believe that every worker deserves a safe and stable place they can call home, regardless of their race, religion, place of birth, or—in this case—tech savviness. We have made great advances in our technology to ensure that all aspects of our lives are efficient and convenient. An example of this is having portals to apply for housing, to pay rent, and to access facilities. While this is my preferred method, this system is not accessible to all of my members, either due to lack of internet access or lack of familiarity with this technology.

Workers who provide critical services to our state should not be denied equal access to housing because they were left behind by technological progress. SB 1523 codifies three requirements to ease these barriers to housing stability by giving our workers options:

- the option to pay by check or other commercially reasonable method
- the option to apply for housing on paper
- and the option to a non-digital key to access facilities

These are budget-neutral solutions that will benefit our workers who are currently suffering from the digital divide.

SEIU Oregon urges this committee to pass SB 1523.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council