



525 NE OREGON ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97232

To: House Committee on Finance and Revenue

From: Renee Ulloa, SEIU 503

Date: 2/18/2026

RE: Support for SB 1507A

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Werner Reschke, Vice Chair Walters, and members of the committee,

My name is Renee, and I'm a proud member of SEIU Local 503. I'm writing to urge you to be bold and use every tool available to prevent the proposed budget reductions.

Because of HR 1, passed by Congress in 2025, Oregon will lose billions of dollars in funding for Medicaid, SNAP, and other essential services over the next few years. While administrative costs rise to meet new federal requirements. If we don't act, our children, youth, seniors, and veterans will pay the price.

To comply with HR 1, ODHS and OHA estimate additional staffing needs and costs totaling \$339 million for the remainder of this biennium. These new federal requirements will drastically increase workloads across every program.

I currently work at ODHS as a Bilingual Public Benefits Specialist. My role is to help meet program goals by listening to the needs of my community, providing resources, and ensuring people feel empowered and confident in their journey toward self-sufficiency. I stay up to date on policy changes and actively engage with the community where they are.

On any given day, I handle eligibility work for programs like TANF, ERDC, SNAP, Medicaid, and now the added ABAWD workload due to federal changes. I work with 20 or more clients daily. My job is rewarding because I see the impact when people feel supported and understood. Every conversation, whether short or long, motivates me to keep helping as many people as possible.

I take time with each individual or family to ensure they understand policies, requirements, and verification processes, especially within the Latino/Hispanic community. My job is not to judge or investigate; it's to listen, support, and connect people with resources.

The 2025 budget reconciliation bill, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), introduced mandatory work requirements for certain able-bodied Medicaid recipients starting in 2027.

This federal mandate significantly changed the national landscape, forcing states to design and implement compliance systems or risk losing funding.

In my experience, this means more outreach to explain work requirements and provide resources to help people meet them. Many of the individuals I work with are unhoused or older adults receiving SNAP benefits. My goal is always to make people feel supported enough to believe they can achieve self-sufficiency, because I know firsthand how vital these services are. If life takes an unexpected turn, any one of us could need these programs. Supporting these changes without adequate resources will harm thousands in our communities.

As a state worker and member of SEIU 503, I care deeply about serving Oregon and the Oregonians who rely on these programs.

In closing, I ask the Co-Chairs and members of the committee to truly consider the consequences of these decisions. It's easy to make choices when they don't affect you, but these choices will affect thousands of families, the unhoused, the elderly, and young adults navigating a system that already feels set up for them to fail.

Signature

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Renee Ulloa