



Economic and Social Policy/International Affairs (ESPIA #2)

1 **Subject:** Political Department Communication

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5 **WHEREAS**, union members are a vital component when it comes to testifying about
6 workload, working conditions, lack of funding for services, and safety in the workplace.

7 **WHEREAS**, it is critical that Local Presidents are informed about potential impacts to
8 working conditions, including but not limited to workload, staffing allocations and
9 agency budgets.

10 **WHEREAS**, Local Presidents can communicate with their Local and engage union
11 members in the process of testifying, lobbying and political representation.

12 **WHEREAS**, when there are House Bills going to the Oregon legislature that may
13 directly impact Locals' working conditions, members shall be notified as soon as
14 practicable.

15 **WHEREAS**, when there are Senate Bills going to the Oregon legislature that may
16 directly impact Locals' working conditions, members shall be notified as soon as
17 practicable.

18 **WHEREAS**, when there are Petition Initiatives going to the ballot or the Oregon
19 legislature that may directly impact Locals' working conditions, members shall be
20 notified as soon as practicable.

21 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative that union members are trained and comfortable testifying
22 before the Oregon Legislature.

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24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the SEIU Local 503, OPEU Political Department shall email
25 each Local President regularly with a summary of the Bills, Policy Option Packages,
26 Budgets and Initiatives that may impact our members.

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28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SEIU Local 503, OPEU Political Department
29 shall develop a training for union members on what virtual testimony and written
30 testimony involves.

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32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the SEIU Local 503, OPEU Political
33 Department meets with any legislative staff for any program, that member leaders be
34 included in all meetings to ensure inclusiveness and transparency.

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Financial: Much of this resolution could be worked into the current political program, including training on testimony and providing updates to members. The work to analyze each agency budget, all their bills, and the POPs is not work that could be worked into the current work of the political program. The analysis and communication with 71 sublocal presidents would take significant work and there would need to be an additional

staff person. The cost would be between \$100,000-160,000 depending on classification, step and health insurance costs.

Equity: The Political Department currently engages with organizers and members on budgets and policies affecting working conditions, provides lobbying training, and supports direct lobbying efforts. The new resolution mandates a member leader's presence at all meetings with legislative staff, a term that is vague and could encompass various government staff. It's unclear how this member would be selected and how we can ensure equitable representation. Implementing this would require hiring additional staff, altering our engagement process, and potentially slowing our response to urgent issues, particularly during legislative sessions.

Legal: To the extent this resolution impacts the political department's ability to advocate for the Union's legislative priorities, there are potential future legal impacts as a result. See Political Impact Statement.

Political: The Political Department already regularly communicates with organizers and members about budgets and policies that may impact members' working conditions, provides training opportunities for members to testify and lobby legislators and other decision makers, and supports members in direct lobbying efforts of both elected officials and agency staff. However, the resolution would add a new requirement for the Political Department that could impact the Political program - that a member leader be present for all meetings with "legislative staff for any program." This term is not defined, and it is unclear whether it applies to only Agency staff, or whether it extends to Legislators and their staff, Legislative committee staff, or staff in the Governor's office. In order to implement this requirement, the Political Department would need to hire an additional FTE whose primary job would be facilitating these meetings and would change how our union is able to engage with Agencies, and potentially legislative staff and Legislators. Our ability to quickly resolve or respond to issues, especially during legislative sessions, would be impacted and it could change how many issues the Political Department would be able to work on at any given time.