



2024 Committee Recommendations:
Do Pass _____ Pass as Amended _____
Do Not Pass _____ Held in Committee _____

1 **Subject:** Health Insurance for Retirees

2 **Authored by:** Steven Demarest

3 **Submitted by:** Retiree Local 001

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5 **Whereas,** SEIU Local 503, OPEU supports making healthcare insurance more affordable
6 whenever possible; and

7 **Whereas,** currently, the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) provides a
8 \$60 per month subsidy for Medicare-eligible retirees; and

9 **Whereas,** \$60 per month is a small part of the total possible Medicare premiums for
10 Medicare Parts B, C, or D, and dental, vision, and hearing coverage; and

11 **Whereas,** a flat rate loses value as costs increase; and

12 **Whereas,** currently, PERS retiree members who are former Tier 1/Tier 2 PERS members
13 are eligible for a subsidy for pre-Medicare health insurance coverage based on years of
14 services; and

15 **Whereas,** however, PERS retiree members who are former OPSRP members are not
16 currently eligible for a subsidy for pre-Medicare health insurance coverage; and

17 **Whereas,** PERS, the agency, has developed preliminary 2025 legislative concepts to
18 change the \$60 per month subsidy for Medicare-eligible retirees to a percentage of
19 premiums and to extend subsidies for pre-Medicare eligible retirees to OPSRP members;
20 *therefore,*

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22 **Be it Resolved,** SEIU Local 503, OPEU shall support and advocate for efforts, including
23 legislative efforts, to increase and expand PERS subsidies for health insurance coverage
24 without an overall reduction of subsidies for any individuals.

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Financial: This would be incorporated into our current political program, so there would not be a financial impact.

Equity: Continuing our commitment to advocate for affordable and accessible healthcare reflects our core values of equity and inclusion, ensuring that all retirees receive the support they deserve.

Legal: No impact

Political: PERS plans to introduce two legislative concepts to make health insurance coverage more affordable and accessible to retirees. Lobbying on issues related to PERS is already part of the Political Departments regular workplan. This resolution confirms our intention to support those efforts and pass those bills in 2025.