



**Testimony on Ballot Title on Referendum 301  
Melissa Unger, SEIU Local 503  
September 5, 2017**

Chair Rayfield and Chair Devlin, members of the committee, for the record my name is Melissa Unger and I am the political director for SEIU Local 503. I am here to testify on the ballot title that you are proposing today. Our union represents 55,000 state workers and care providers. We represent people who process OHP and people that are on OHP. We are worried that this ballot title misses the point and voters will not know the real consequences of the proposed referendum.

We believe that voters must know what the impact of a no vote is. Providers and advocates came together to support HB 2391, which is being referred to the ballot, because they knew without the resources and the match from the federal government over 300,000 people would no longer be able to receive Medicaid.

Voters need to know how many people would lose their insurance and also the cost to the budget, both state and federal funds. Which I believe is over \$1 billion. We think that without this information voters can't make an informed decision about the real life impacts of a no vote. Currently there are no numbers in the ballot title, which feels like it misses the impacts.

Beyond the impact on people losing Medicaid, we also don't think this ballot title is clear enough about the impact of the reinsurance pool. DCBS has already decreased rates on the individual market by 6% because HB 2391 passed, voters need to know that if this was to fail, individual rates would have to be increased, maybe even mid-year and possibly higher than 6% to deal with the mid-year change to the reinsurance pool.

We believe that health insurance for hundred of thousands of Oregonians is on the line with Referendum 301. Please make sure the ballot title reflects the real consequences of a no vote, so that voters understand what is on the line. Providers understood during session what was on the line, which is why they supported it, and we believe voters will also support it if they understand the true consequences. Thank you for your time.

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