

Organizing Victories

Largest Expansion of Bargaining Rights Since 1973

The Legislature prioritized giving workers a voice in their work. They approved bargaining rights for child care workers, adult foster care workers, and passed a bill that allows public employees to unionize by having a majority sign cards. 2007 represented the largest expansion of bargaining rights since 1973.

Child Care Workers

Local 503's newest members are child care providers. These workers have not had the fundamental right to bargain collectively that almost all Oregonians enjoy. Child care workers fought for bargaining rights and expanded access for working parents to get child care for their kids.



"I testified at a Lobby Day to let lawmakers know how important funding is for the Child Care Program. Parents need this program to be able to afford to work and have access to safe child care. I've never seen anyone so understanding and willing to listen as the state representatives and legislators. It was

great to see them back us up. We won an additional \$33 million in funding for the Child Care Program."

Wanda Winne

Child Care Provider, N.E. Portland

Child care providers swarmed the capitol, and brought the kids they care for. They packed hearing rooms to make their voice heard. Senator Avel Gordly (D - Portland) was moved by the level of member involvement. She stopped the hearing, inviting two of our members' children up to the dais to join the Senators while they listened to the testimony of child care providers.

The Committee approved the collective bargaining measure, and the full legislature passed the bill with bi-partisan support. Our members successfully fought to improve the day care program. Oregon was one of the worst states in the country in terms of affordable and accessible child care. Because of our members' efforts, we now are ahead of most states when it comes to affordable day care for low-wage working parents.