



SEIU 503 member testimony was integral to the passage of better Contracting Out laws.

available online. Under the old law, advocacy groups must go through a complex and cumbersome process for information on who receives contracts or how much they cost. Starting January 1, 2010, that information will be available on a central state website under the new law.

HB 2867 is comprehensive contracting legislation that applies to a majority of state agencies, local governments, and school districts. The bill mandates a cost/benefit analysis on contracts over \$250,000. If the analysis determines that the only reason it is cheaper to contract is because the contractor pays lower wages and benefits, the agency cannot contract the service. The new law also requires all agencies to have clear quality expectations in all contracts. And finally it expands guidelines to determine contractor responsibility, taking past performance into account.

Contractor reform passed because members told their contracting horror stories and stood up for quality services over contractor profit and pennywise/pound-foolish savings. HB 2500 and 2867 are first steps. There is still work to do, but now contracting will be more thought out and will not come at the expense of family wage jobs.

By the end of session the coalition forged by SEIU members had expanded and now includes American Federation of Teachers, Stand for Children, Oregon School Employees Association, Association of Engineering Employees, Democracy Reform, AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, the Bus Project, and the AFL-CIO.