
From: Avery Horton <averyhorton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 10:27 AM
To: Sunshine Committee
Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Sunshine Committee Wednesday, July 18, 1:30-4:30 PM Oregon State Capitol Hearing Room C 900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members:

I have seen how the State has targeted one of my Union Sisters. Without access to these public records, I never would have known the depth and breadth of this retaliation. Public records need to be able to be accessed, **AT NO CHARGE**, to the requestor. We pay taxes, hence the public employee salaries, so we do not need to pay twice for public records.

As a taxpayer, I believe I have a right to know how and where my taxpayer dollars are spent. The ability to inspect the public records allows me to see this with my own two eyes.

As a union member, I feel my right to privacy is important but my right to be informed of my rights under the law is important, too. Knowing my rights outweighs privacy issues.

As an Afro-American male who survived the 1960s, I have first hand experience of having people preventing me from knowing my rights and exercising those same rights. So I welcome anyone or group who wants to inform me of my rights.

When one group or organization keeps another group or organization from informing people of their rights, under the veil of privacy, you no longer have freedom - you have tyranny! When you control the medium, you control the message. When you control the message, you control the people.

Any law, rule, or ordinance that treats one group differently than another goes against the founding documents of the United States of America. You have the ability to fix the current problem and make public records really public. I trust you will do the right thing.

Respectfully submitted,

Avery T. Horton, Jr.
Home Care Worker

SEIU LOCAL 503 MEMBER
Citizen, Voter, Taxpayer
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