

I voted no on SB 759A bill. There is no way that staff members of the Oregon legislature should be represented by an international and national union that contributes to political campaigns and causes. We were told that the IBEW local representing the legislative staff has never before contributed to candidates or political causes. However, a portion of the dues received by staff members will be sent to the national IBEW and those dues will be used to support or oppose political candidates and campaigns for policies legislators may also support or oppose. This creates an obvious conflict of interest. Quite often, these internationally organized unions directly influence policy stances the national unions will fund at a state level and direct the national unions to send money back to the states to support or oppose political campaigns. When the legislative staff members are working for legislators while paying dues to an organization that could be funding the legislators' political races, or funding the political races of their opponents, there is an inherent conflict of interest. If the staff is to organize, they should be organized under an independent, stand-alone union and not under an internationally established union that opposes or supports political campaigns of any kind.

Kim Thatcher

State Senator

District 13