



2024 Committee Recommendations:
Do Pass _____ Pass as Amended _____
Do Not Pass _____ Held in Committee _____

1 **Subject:** Unions for All
2 **Authored by:** Kathleen Lamar, Catherine Stearns, Committee for the Future
3 **Submitted by:** Board of Directors
4

5 **WHEREAS,** workers need a union today more than ever. In our economy, employers
6 continue to set policies and wages that don't allow workers to afford the cost of living, to
7 have the flexibility they need to be able to be active community members,

8 **WHEREAS,** corporations continue to grow in size and influence, unions are one of the
9 only organizations set up to challenge corporate power and ensure that workers have a
10 voice in our economy,

11 **WHEREAS,** unions are seeing record popularity—the public is looking for organizations
12 that are going to put their interests and needs first and they are looking to unions in order
13 to fight for more fair workplaces.

14 **WHEREAS,** workers across the country are taking action to fight for higher wages and
15 fair working conditions. Fast food workers, Starbucks, Amazon, and more are finding
16 ways to build unions that build power for workers in non-traditional ways.

17 **WHEREAS,** work has changed since the pandemic and it will continue to change. Many
18 workers now work at home, many others do gig work through Uber, Lyft, Door Dash,
19 Instacart and unions need to find ways for these workers to build power and keep the
20 flexibility they want in their jobs,

21 **WHEREAS,** organizing more workers lifts standards for the new union workers, but also
22 for our current members by building power and lifting wages and benefits and seeing new
23 floors,

24 **WHEREAS,** SEIU 503 must take this opportunity of high union popularity to build
25 power and make unions for all a reality for Oregon worker
26

27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Council of SEIU Local 503,
28 OPEU that our union will use its organizing and political power to make Unions for All
29 a reality for all Oregon workers, and that SEIU 503 will continue our work to organize
30 long term care workers, public workers, and hospital workers to build power for our
31 SEIU members in the key industries we represent
32

33 **BE IT RESOLVED** that our union will explore new innovative ways to organize,
34 working to bring industries together through sectoral organizing and using government to
35 set standards with paths for workers to join together in union and that our union will
36 explore ways to support gig workers organizing through SEIU and other unions.

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Financial: We already have a commitment and budget for organizing for new workers. Through our International Union we have an obligation to spend 20% of dues on external organizing. This resolution would help us to meet that obligation.

Equity: By leveraging our organizing and political influence, we can ensure that every worker in Oregon has access to union representation, securing fair wages and equitable working conditions across diverse industries and employment types. This effort not only strengthens advocacy for long-term care, public, and hospital workers but also extends crucial protections to gig workers, historically marginalized within traditional labor frameworks. Through innovative organizing strategies and sector-wide standards, we aim to uplift standards for all workers, fostering a more equitable economy where every individual has a voice and the power to advocate for their rights.

Legal: No impact

Political: This resolution builds upon past General Council resolutions and International Union resolutions related to Unions for All and confirms our commitment to pursuing new innovative ways to organize, including through policy and political change. This will not be new work, because Unions for All is already a cornerstone of our current policy agenda.