

Economic & Social Policy and International Affairs #5

Subject: Union focusing on actions and campaigns to hold corporations and the wealthy accountable to pay their fair share and fight income inequality.

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WHEREAS, the gap between the wealthy and working people is the largest it has ever been, nationally and in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, corporate profits continue to reach record highs; and

WHEREAS, services that Oregonians and our members rely on like the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) and SNAP are under direct attack from a hostile federal government that is also attacking our immigrant neighbors and seeking to divide us; and

WHEREAS, those attacks are directly connected to building power and wealth for the richest Americans and largest Corporations through tax breaks and cutting essential programs resulting in growing, unsustainable wealth inequality; and

WHEREAS, while public services face cuts, a growing share of Medicaid dollars in Oregon flows to large corporate providers whose profit margins and executive compensation come at the expense of direct care workers' wages and the quality of services delivered to consumers; and

WHEREAS, many of these same corporate and moneyed interests are engaged in an ongoing and robust effort to weaken unions through lobbying, lawsuits, individual outreach, and ballot measures; and

WHEREAS, meeting our goals of raising standards for workers and funding quality services for all Oregonians is dependent on a stable state budget that can support these priorities; now, therefore,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the General Council of SEIU Local 503, OPEU: That SEIU Local 503 shall prioritize the development of campaigns via the legislature and/or via ballot initiative to:

- Increase capital gains taxes on the wealthy to fund public services
- Increase taxes on large corporations to fund public services
- Close tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy and large corporations
- Hold large, low-wage, low-benefit corporations accountable who force taxpayers to pay to provide healthcare (Medicaid) and food assistance (SNAP) to those employees and their families

- Advance policies to increase financial transparency and direct a greater share of public Medicaid dollars to wages, benefits, and direct services rather than corporate profit, executive compensation, and overhead expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That SEIU Local 503 shall support these efforts by supporting endorsed candidates, building member political power, and holding elected officials accountable for delivering on these priorities — so that our union and the communities we serve can withstand attacks and win lasting change.

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Financial: No fiscal impact

Equity: This resolution would have a positive impact as it builds union power and aligns with SEIU503's mission to protect all workers.

Legal: No legal impact

Political: SEIU Oregon has, through its support of and participation in coalitions and campaigns, including Our Oregon, been a leader of multiple campaigns to hold corporations and the wealthy accountable to paying their fair share for high quality public services. Additionally, thousands of SEIU members rely on Medicaid for their employment and their healthcare. SEIU members have been active participants in recent campaigns to reject tax breaks for the wealthy, close corporate tax loopholes, and protect Medicaid. This resolution would reaffirm our commitment to this important work and direct our union to prioritize the development of campaigns that move it forward.