Economic & Social Policy and International Affairs #8

Subject: Defend Migrant Workers

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Submitted by: Board of Directors

DEFEND MIGRANT WORKERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: US President Trump, using rhetoric painting migrants as "criminals," is advancing his fascist agenda by expanding ICE operations, including mass arrests, detentions, and deportations;

WHEREAS: ICE continues to carry out raids in our neighborhoods and workplaces, with over 60,000 migrants currently detained in over 400 ICE detention facilities across the US, and 605,000 deported in Trump's second term so far;

WHEREAS: our own SEIU 503 migrant members face fear of detainment and harassment in their day to day lives, such as a member in Salem who was assaulted by four ICE officers in January 2026;

WHEREAS: SEIU 503 resolved in 2024 to support the fights of Filipino migrant workers especially in Oregon, many of whom work dangerous, underpaid jobs as nurses, caregivers, and seafarers;

WHEREAS: SEIU 925 union member Llewelyn Dixon, a Filipino migrant working at the University of Washington, was subject to unjust detention for several months at the Northwest Detention center in 2025;

WHEREAS: Over twenty SEIU 503 members and staff mobilized to Tacoma Washington alongside the Tanggol Migrante Movement to rally outside the NWDC, resulting in Llewellyn Dixon's immediate release and reunification with her family;

WHEREAS: union members have stood by Tita Maria—a Filipino migrant caregiver in Portland whose employer stole $195,000 dollars in unpaid wages—by attending rallies calling out her employer and hosting Tita Maria to share her story at the 2025 CHRC conference;

WHEREAS: union members stood in solidarity with migrant workers targeted for deportation by Avelo Airlines in collaboration with ICE, and joined in rallies and public actions that generated widespread public pressure, ultimately contributing to Avelo Airlines' withdrawal from the Salem airport;

WHEREAS: SEIU 503 union members and staff were present at the International Migrants Alliance Political Conference in Portland, Oregon that launched the Defend Migrants Alliance in August 2025;

WHEREAS: members of SEIU 503 attended May Day in Portland under the banner "Migrants and Workers, Unite and Fight!" to show unity in the joint fights for migrant and workers rights;

WHEREAS: as a union it is our duty to fight for the rights of migrant workers, both in our membership and the broad community, and to stand against fascist attacks on the people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: SEIU 503 sign on to join the Defend Migrants Alliance and commit to the following points of unity:

1. Support and defend the rights of migrants, workers, and all those affected by any presidential administration's immigration crackdown, and to empower the leadership of those most impacted in this movement, including the families of detained and deported migrants.

2. Hold governments accountable – including both US and home country government institutions – to fulfill their responsibilities in ensuring the rights and welfare of the people.
3. Expose and oppose the for-profit system of corporations benefiting from inhumane migrant detention and deportation operations and the collusion of government agencies including ICE in repressing and surveilling our communities, here and in our homelands.
4. Grow our movement by bringing in others to the alliance to defend our communities through organizing, advocacy, and other forms of action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: members be sponsored and compensated by the union to participate in the visitation of detained migrants from Oregon at the Northwest Detention Center as approved by the Finance committee before compensation.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the union will collaborate with Defend Migrants Alliance and with the Care for Caregivers Campaign to advance a Caregivers Bill of Rights in Oregon that ensures adequate staffing and worker protections in all care facilities, as the industry is built predominantly off the work of migrants.

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Financial: The proposed resolution authorizes SEIU Local 503 to sponsor and compensate members to participate in visits to detained migrants from Oregon at the Northwest Detention Center, subject to approval by the Finance Committee. While the resolution identifies an approval process through the Finance Committee, it does not establish financial parameters or limitations regarding the level of funding available, the number of members who may participate, the frequency of sponsored visits, or the types of expenses eligible for reimbursement. As a result, it is difficult to accurately estimate the fiscal impact. Implementation of this resolution could potentially be accommodated within existing budgeted resources if expenditures remain within available funding and appropriate participation and reimbursement limits are established.

Equity: This resolution would have a positive impact. It would uphold SEIU503's values by demonstrating solidarity with migrant workers, as well as align with strategic planning efforts to uplift the struggles of workers, hold government accountable, and build stronger partnerships with community organizations.

Legal: Generally no impact, but we note that information about member's immigration status shall not be collected and stored within Union systems.

Political: This resolution directs the union to sign onto two campaigns, "Defend Migrants Alliance" and the "Care for Caregivers Campaign." SEIU unequivocally stands in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, and workers, and works at all levels to hold governments accountable for their fair treatment. As the largest organization in Oregon representing caregivers, SEIU has also long advocated for increasing protections for caregivers — including enhanced staffing, increased wages, healthcare, retirement, and more — and will continue to do so. With regard to a "Caregivers Bill of Rights," it's not yet clear what specific policies or rights this concept includes. It will be important to review and analyze the proposal as written before committing SEIU Local 503 to a formal position or advocacy role — so we can be sure we fully understand its impact on the workers we represent, as well as existing agreements with employers.