

BUILDING ALLIANCES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1 WHEREAS:

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3 Across the country too many elected officials, spurred on by corporate leaders and billionaire
4 elites, have responded to the ongoing fiscal crisis by scapegoating public employees--
5 demanding cuts in wages and benefits, privatizing or eliminating public services, eroding
6 collective bargaining rights and laying off public service workers; and

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8 WHEREAS:

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10 To fight back against this attack, public employees must reach out to their communities to
11 remind them that everyone benefits from the work of public employees and that eliminating
12 public sector jobs undermines public services, erodes equal access to services and quality of
13 life for all people, while increasing unemployment, income inequality and economic instability;
14 and

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17 WHEREAS:

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19 The Governor has been aided and abetted in this assault on public employees by big, profitable
20 corporations eager to protect their tax breaks and curtail the power of unions, and by elected
21 officials falling into line; and

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23 WHEREAS:

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25 At the city and statewide level, AFSCME Council 75 has played a leadership role building
26 important coalitions with community partner and ally organizations to defend the standard of
27 living of working families, to oppose cuts to vital public services, to ensure adequate revenue,
28 and to advance equal rights for all; and

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30 WHEREAS:

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32 Council 75 and its affiliated local unions have reached out to involve members of the broader
33 community and other labor unions in campaigns to halt anti-union initiatives, prevent further cuts
34 to public services, build support for new revenue sources to maintain vital services, and demand
35 fair treatment of public employees; and

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37 WHEREAS:

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39 Council 75 and AFSCME members across the state have reached out to Oregonians – through
40 neighborhood groups, small businesses, churches, other unions and more – and engaged their
41 support for AFSCME members in contract fights, against facility closures, in opposition to
42 privatization, and in other critical battles; and

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WHEREAS:

In defending public services and jobs, AFSCME local unions have developed effective partnerships with the individuals and their families who are in most need of services and the most vulnerable in our communities; and

WHEREAS:

The assaults on public services and public employees are intensifying, and coalition-building and community outreach have become even more indispensable to our union's ability to advance the interests of working families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That all local unions seek to strengthen ties with their local community groups and institutions on an ongoing basis in order to be able to draw on broader community support when public services or public workers are under attack; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That AFSCME Council 75 support and aid local unions as they reach out to community members to defend public services and public employee rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Council 75 and all local unions work to strengthen ties with service recipients and to strive to improve service quality in order to deter attempts to cut or privatize services; and AFSCME Council 75 Convention Resolutions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

That AFSCME Council 75 continue to help form, build and lead broad-based coalitions built on shared goals and mutual respect that can provide a unified force capable of advancing issues of critical importance to working families in the state of Oregon.

Submitted by: Oregon AFSCME Council 75 Executive Committee