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2017

MAKING POLITICS MATTER FOR A BETTER CALIFORNIA

UNION UPDATE

One of the ways our union works to fulfill its Purpose Statement and create a better life for all Californians is through politics and the power of 95,000 members.

We make politics matter by electing lawmakers who respect working families, and by supporting legislation that makes a difference in the work and the lives of those families. Last month, we had an impact on two pieces of legislation important to working families.

AB 83 (Santiago)—the Judicial Council Employer-Employee Relations Act—which would help state employees at the Judicial Council gain the right of union representation, passed out of the Senate Public Employment Relations and Retirement Committee, by a 3-2 vote. Nearly 400 Judicial Council workers don't currently enjoy the same workplace and collective bargaining rights as their executive branch counterparts working in the same classifications, and our union is currently helping these workers organize.

Already passed by the Assembly, AB 83, which is sponsored by Local 1000, now moves on to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and with their approval, on to the full vote of the senate.

Vice President for Organizing and Representation Tamekia N. Robinson testified on behalf of the bill, and later said, "When we expand union representation to new members, we're empowering them to bargain for better salaries and working conditions."

The same day, we helped defeat a dangerous challenge to the recently-launched California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program. SCA 1 (Moorlach) was a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would have prohibited the state from paying any of the costs of implementing Secure Choice.

As the testimony of Vice President Robinson and others illustrated, the law governing Secure Choice already has safeguards that prevent the state from paying those costs.

SCA 1 was defeated by a 3-2 vote of the Senate Public Employment and Retirement committee.

"This win keeps California on track to provide a safe and secure investment option for 7 million workers whose jobs don't provide a path to retirement. Nobody who works full time should have to retire into poverty."

-Tamekia N. Robinson,

Vice President for Organizing/Representation

UNION INFORMATION

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
866.471.SEIU (7348)

Website

seiu1000.org

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MEMBERS AT DOJ ARE MAKING THE CHOICE TO STAND TOGETHER

In the next year, members will face a choice. We can choose to stand together with SEIU members around the country and fight back the attacks to our pensions, our contract, and our union or we can choose to stand alone and experience what workers in states around the country have experienced: lower wages, shrinking contracts, and cuts to their benefits.

President Yvonne R. Walker met with members at the Department of Justice in Sacramento to discuss what these choices will mean for our members and where these attacks come from. "They call it 'right to work' but it's really a campaign to weaken our rights and silence our

voices." Walker said. "These groups want to suppress our wages and roll back our benefits." We have already seen the consequences of these attacks for workers in Wisconsin where state workers have received a mere 2% salary increase over the last 7 years and have lost the right to negotiate over working conditions and benefits.

Members at DOJ and across the state are making the choice to stand together with the #IChooseMyUnion program. To learn more, contact your Union Organizer or call the Member Resource Center at 866.471.7348.

"It's time to make a choice. We can stand together and fight back against these attacks...or stand alone and lose the things we've worked so hard to achieve."

- Yvonne R. Walker, President



KIDS@WORK DAY BUILDS COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES



A committed and active group of Insurance Rate Analysts at the Los Angeles office of the Department of Insurance participated in "Kids@Work Day" late last month.

The event featured four different DOI bureaus. Our members spoke with kids and parents alike about the work they do and about how they became active in state service.

"We had a great opportunity to talk with members of the community about the importance of what we do," said Annie Chao, Insurance Rate Analyst, and one of our union stewards. "We made connections and spread the word about the contributions we make for a better California."