

RESOLUTION

Submitted by the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board

Oregon Unions Call For Workplace Flexibility, Greater Worker Protections in Response to COVID-19

WHEREAS, a new coronavirus, COVID-19 has spread rapidly across the globe and multiple cases have been confirmed in Oregon and Washington states and United States health officials have said a widespread transmission of the virus within our country is likely and will cause disruptions to everyday life;

WHEREAS, The State of Oregon's Paid Sick Leave law provides a maximum of 40 hours of paid leave and Oregon's Family Medical Leave Law will not be pay benefits until 2023;

WHEREAS, many workers including independent contractors do not qualify for paid time off, some employers penalize workers for taking too much sick leave or require a letter from a doctor explaining an absence;

WHEREAS, many Oregon AFL-CIO affiliated union members and all working people without the benefit of a union on the job cannot telecommute or avoid exposure to COVID-19 due to the nature of their job;

WHEREAS, the Oregon AFL-CIO is a strong voice for all workers and advocates for workers to be able to care for sick family members, to avoid unnecessary exposure to disease, and for frontline workers to have the equipment and training required to work safely; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO will advocate and call on all employers in Oregon to follow protocols and develop plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as guided by the Center for Disease Control; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO will advocate for employers in Oregon to make it easier for employees to telecommute, stay home when showing symptoms of COVID-19, to care for family members with symptoms of COVID-19 and to not be disciplined or penalized for taking time off related to COVID-19; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO will advocate for employers to ensure if workplaces are closed due to COVID-19, workers will be paid as expected through equitable options which do not negatively impact workers' livelihoods; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO will work with the state's worker benefit programs and elected officials to ensure that any benefit that could be provided to working families impacted by COVID-19 is made available; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO will advocate for first responders, healthcare and other frontline workers to have the necessary equipment and training to avoid exposure risk to COVID-19; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Oregon AFL-CIO will produce communications materials for affiliated unions to use to educate members and the general public of the lack of protection for working people against COVID-19.