

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Submitted by the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board and AFSCME Local 88

Referred to Constitution and Bylaws

IMMIGRATION AND OUR DUTY TO FELLOW WORKERS: OREGON LABOR MOVEMENT'S STANCE ON DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

WHEREAS, Approximately 404,000 immigrants reside in Oregon comprising 9.5% of the total population – nearly 1 in 10 Oregonians; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant workers make our economy run in every sector of the economy, produce 13% of Oregon's total economic output and disproportionately contribute to our GDP;

WHEREAS, Immigrant workers are union members, they are our co-workers, they are our friends and neighbors and are critical to our overall economy; immigrant workers are overrepresented in the highest-risk, lowest-paid jobs and often are working side by side with U.S.-born workers who are suffering the same exploitation; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, \$30.2 billion federal dollars were spent on immigration enforcement in contrast to \$2.1 billion in labor enforcement; In 2025, there was a proposed \$185 billion for ramped up for immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Executive Orders were signed and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers were deployed to carry out an unprecedented attack on immigrant workers and their families with mass deportations, workplace raids, and deceptive tricks to target people based on their perceived immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that the State of Oregon has long affirmed and strengthened our status as a Sanctuary State where state law enforcement cannot assist Federal Immigration forces, immigrant workers – or those who are perceived to be immigrants – are under attack from Federal Immigration Enforcement at Oregon worksites, schools, places of worships, grocery stores, and more; and

WHEREAS, Workers are afraid to go to work for fear of being detained, arrested, or questioned and are being detained illegally, denied due process, and assumed guilty until proven innocent; and;

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WHEREAS, Claims have been made around immigration enforcement related to criminal record, however less than 10% of immigrants taken into ICE custody recently have been criminally convicted and approximately 40% have some kind of legal permission to be in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Immigration arrest and detentions are fundamentally tools to suppress basic rights including organizing and protesting — we've seen this time after time including the arrest and detention of union leaders including SEIU President David Huerta who was detained following observing an ICE raid of union members at a workplace, SMART Local member Kilmar Abrego Garcia, IAM member Maximo Londonio, SEIU member Llewelyn Dixon, or UFW member Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez ; and

WHEREAS, Unions are about collective defense for the working class as a whole; an injury to one is an injury to all, and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Oregon Labor Movement stands with immigrants and their critical role in putting food on our tables, providing the services we rely on, and being an imperative part of the fabric of our communities; Immigrants pay taxes, are community members, and are workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Oregon Labor Movement believes that America deserves an immigration system that protects all workers both native born and foreign and that we cannot look to government, courts, politicians, employers or the police to protect immigrant Oregonians, people of color, or allies from bigoted attacks; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Oregon Labor Movement be clear in our understanding that the violent immigration enforcement tactics of the federal government are rooted in racism, classism and capitalism, stoking and clearly contributing to increased racism and anti-immigrant violence, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Oregon Labor Movement declare this as a moment that calls unions to stand together to protect our fellow workers regardless of their immigration status and to defend our fellow workers against oppressive and racist attacks; It is our responsibility to speak out against injustice in any form and to stand with those most impacted by policies aimed at dividing working people in any way; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO calls on the Oregon Labor Movement to prioritize a strategic and moral imperative to defend all workers whose rights are under attack, including immigrant workers, workers of color, those with temporary protected status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and those without formal status; This includes supporting a long-overdue path to citizenship and to win comprehensive, pro-worker reforms to our unjust immigration system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Oregon AFL-CIO will step up their efforts to work with affiliated unions to develop next steps like: plans for rapid response to raids and detentions, including protests and

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non-violent civil disobedience; Know Your Rights trainings; assistance with naturalization, visa processing or adjustment of immigration status; and best practices for CBA provisions to help protect workers from policy changes like visa restrictions and immigration audits/raids; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Oregon AFL-CIO will work with state partners and elected officials to ensure that alleged violations of the sanctuary law are promptly investigated and if substantiated, that the violators are properly disciplined, so that our sanctuary laws are effective and enforceable; and

RESOLVED, The Oregon AFL-CIO, affiliates and coalition partners will continue to partner with the National AFL-CIO and other national and local partners in organizing and representing immigrant workers by utilizing, sharing and building on tools around unionization and workplace readiness for attacks, defense against and preparation for loss of status, workplace raids, deportation defense and building movement solidarity; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Oregon AFL-CIO in coordination with affiliates and partners will support state policies that protect Oregon immigrants in our communities and in their workplaces; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Oregon AFL-CIO shall deepen our labor citizenship and naturalization efforts to help build worker power and expand and diversify the electorate; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Oregon AFL-CIO and its affiliates should work to organize all workers, regardless of status, and pursue concrete protections and work permits for immigrants who seek to form or join a union, bargain a contract or otherwise take collective action to make our workplaces safe and fair; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Oregon AFL-CIO ask the National AFL-CIO to support legislation that protects our communities from militarized policing such as the Preventing Authoritarian Policing Tactics on America's Streets Act ([H.R. 4476](#) & [S. 2386](#)); and be it further

RESOLVED, The Oregon AFL-CIO shall reject efforts to misdirect forced migrants into abusive temporary work visa programs and continue to insist that guest worker programs be fundamentally reformed to lift worker rights and labor standards, rather than expanded; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that all labor leaders, U.S. born, Naturalized, Indigenous and U.S. Citizen rank-and-file members and leaders be encouraged to stand publicly alongside their immigrant and refugee siblings who continue to be targeted by racist and xenophobic rhetoric, scapegoating, violent attacks, legal challenges and policies. We must act bravely in the face of this level of attack; and be it finally

RESOLVED, The Oregon AFL-CIO shall demand enforceable environmental and labor standards in trade deals and investment strategies, and an end to extractive, neocolonial foreign policy approaches that enrich multinational corporations and fuel poverty, exploitation, environmental degradation, violent suppression of rights and other factors that drive working families from their homelands.