

BACKPAY FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WORKERS

WHEREAS, the majority of the 13,000 workers represented by the ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873, AFL-CIO, are government contract workers covered under the Service Contract Act; and

WHEREAS, “government shutdowns” have increasingly become a common tactic for negotiations in the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, historically and presently, federal contract workers do not receive back pay and are typically unable to recoup hours and wages lost due to government shutdowns; and

WHEREAS, this loss of pay due to no fault of their own is a tremendous burden on workers who are already struggling in the lower hourly wage spectrum; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced the “Fair Compensation for Low-Wage Contractor Employees Act,” which aims to provide backpay to low-wage federal contractor employees – including janitorial, food, and security services workers – who have been furloughed or forced to accept reduced work hours as a result of the government shutdown.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU supports the aforementioned Act, as well as any other legislative action that seeks to provide back-payment for government contract employees who have been furloughed due to a government shutdown.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019