

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN DEFENSE OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

WHEREAS, reproductive health, including safe and legal abortion, is an inseparable component of healthcare, which is a fundamental right and subject to collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, all people should have control over their own bodies and the ability to make their own healthcare decisions – including decisions over their personal reproductive health. The choice of whether or not to become a parent has a critical effect on the well-being of women and people who can become pregnant – not only affecting their physical health, but also their educational opportunities, job security, and union participation. Those who choose to bear and raise children need support to raise their children in safe and sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, women and LGBTQIA+ people have always played a crucial role in the union movement, and as of January 2020, women were 50.4% of the US workforce – yet attacks on abortion and birth control, lack of affordable childcare, and continued incidents of forced sterilization threaten to set gender equality back decades; and

WHEREAS, since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, attacks on abortion access and bodily autonomy have increased exponentially. Established laws on contraception and same-sex marriage have been reversed or threatened. These attacks exacerbate financial insecurity, and especially hurt low-income women, people of color, people with disabilities, trans and non-binary people; and

WHEREAS, state lawmakers have passed total abortion bans, undermined portions of the federal Affordable Care Act, and created a hostile medical care environment that forces providers to relocate to other states and leaves many working people and whole populations without primary care providers. In addition, a federal judge is attempting to block access to the abortion pill, which would cause injury to working families nationwide; and

WHEREAS, many labor organizations issued statements in defense of reproductive justice on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* and have shown up in the streets to stand up for reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, a national labor conference can help unite leadership and rank-and-file members across different unions, states, and industries, and empower working people to take an active part in building a new movement for reproductive justice, with labor in the forefront.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU will:

- Support the call for an emergency national labor conference in defense of reproductive justice; and
- Sign the open letter to AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler tinyurl.com/Letter2AFLCIO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OPEIU will consider additional forms of support such as:

- Encouraging other labor organizations to sign the open letter; and
- Educating members about abortion and reproductive justice; and
- Encouraging contract proposals which protect access to abortion, reproductive rights and gender-affirming healthcare.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2023

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