

WAGE THEFT

WHEREAS, wage theft is the most prominent form of theft in the United States, outpacing all other forms of theft including burglary and larceny in both frequency and financial loss; and

WHEREAS, across industries, employers routinely manipulate time clocks, change time cards, refuse to pay overtime or, in the most egregious cases, siphon money directly from a worker's paycheck; and

WHEREAS, in the long-term, wage theft reduces workers' Social Security benefits and employers' share of our nation's tax burden; and

WHEREAS, immigrant workers are at increased risk of being a victim of wage theft, as employers threaten their immigration status if they choose to report the wage theft; and

WHEREAS, the United States spends billions on law enforcement but devotes very little resources to combatting the most pervasive form of theft.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED OPEIU will support all efforts to impose real penalties, including criminal penalties, for employers who steal workers' wages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED special protections should be codified for immigrant workers who are at-risk to face retaliation for reporting wage theft; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED OPEIU will support and participate in efforts to publicize, educate and call out employers who steal wages from their workers.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2023