

**Seizing the Opportunity to Raise Standards of Living and Care Across the Country
through a Short-term Loan to the Fairness Project**
RESOLUTION 27-18

Background:

In 2015, the SEIU-UHW Executive Board launched the Fairness Project with the aim of supporting grassroots coalitions in using the ballot initiative as a tool for raising economic standards.

In 2016, the Fairness Project supported multiple, successful minimum wage initiatives that have since given 8 million workers raises and shifted \$5.5 billion in wealth to working people.

In 2017, the Fairness Project supported the first ever successful expansion of Medicaid by ballot initiative bringing healthcare coverage to 70,000 people.

These successes have provided hope to grassroots groups in states and cities across the country and in the 2018 election, the Fairness Project will be supporting ballot initiatives to:

- 1) Raise the minimum wage from \$8.50 to \$11/hr for 349,000 workers in Arkansas.
- 2) Raise the minimum wage from \$7.85 to \$12/hr for 362,000 workers in Missouri.
- 3) Expand Medicaid to 62,000 people in Idaho.
- 4) Expand Medicaid to 90,000 people in Nebraska.
- 5) Expand Medicaid to 129,000 people in Utah.
- 6) Preserve Medicaid coverage for 100,000 people in Montana.
- 7) Provide paid sick leave to 2 million workers in Michigan.
- 8) Provide paid sick leave to 250,000 workers in San Antonio, TX (just adopted by city council!).
- 9) Provide paid sick leave to 250,000 workers in Dallas, TX.
- 10) Protect 300,000 Coloradans from being exploited by payday loan companies.
- 11) Provide universal homecare to 30,000 seniors and people with disabilities in Maine.

Polling shows these campaigns have a very good chance of winning. However, the Koch Brothers and other anti-worker interests are putting significant money behind the opposition campaigns. The Fairness Project is still a young organization and the opportunities to have an impact are growing faster than fundraising. Just as the successes of 2016 helped expand interest in the Fairness Project in 2018, we believe that ballot initiatives impacting another 4 million people will generate renewed support for 2020 and beyond.

The SEIU-UHW reserve fund has over \$5 million. This fund is in addition to our strike fund, political funds and organizing reserves and is meant for unforeseen expenses.

Resolution:

Whereas, the SEIU-UHW Executive Board launched the Fairness Project as a vehicle to help grassroots organizations across the country use ballot initiatives to improve working people’s lives.

Whereas, the Fairness Project has helped put over \$5.5 billion in the pockets of 8 million workers and expand Medicaid coverage to 70,000 people.

Whereas, the Fairness Project is supporting 11 ballot initiatives on the November 2018 ballot that will raise the standards of living and care for 4 million people and needs additional resources in order to maximize success.

Therefore, be it resolved that SEIU-UHW will loan the Fairness Project \$3 million from the reserve fund to support these important 2018 ballot initiative campaigns. The loan will be repaid within 2 years.