

Privatization of Public Services

Whereas, the citizens of the United States expect their State Governments to provide fundamental and essential services such as public education, police and fire protection, snow removal and weather related protections, correctional, mental health and disability services, public welfare, protection of children and seniors, and other such services; and

Whereas, we represent many of these workers throughout the United States; and

Whereas, many State Legislatures refuse or, at best resist, providing appropriate resources to fully fund essential public services; and

Whereas, many State Legislatures are attempting to cut or eliminate funding for essential services, diminishing our members' ability to effectively serve the public, and threatening their job security; and

Whereas, research shows that the lack of governmental oversight for essential public services provides for a shoddy public benefit at best, and significant harm to the public at worst; and

Whereas, only the proper elected officials who are accountable to the taxpayer should be responsible for direct oversight of taxpayer funded essential services; and

Whereas, State and county tax dollars must still be expended to provide essential public services regardless of the provider of services;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Service Employees International Union is on record as opposing the privatization of public services that would cause the furlough or elimination of public employee jobs, or the weakening of their bargaining unit(s); and

Therefore be it further resolved, that the Service Employees International Union provide whatever resources necessary to any Local and/or State Council to fight against any State's initiatives to privatize public services performed by our members where such privatization would cause the elimination of public employee jobs, or the weakening of their bargaining unit(s).

Submitted by SEIU Local 668