



February 12, 2010

Honorable Ed Hernandez  
State Capitol, Room 4112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Hernandez:

As a co-sponsor of AB 1699, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000 would like voice its strong support of this bill which will continuously appropriate employee payroll and will ensure our members and other state employees receive their full salary in the event a budget is not passed on time. SEIU Local 1000 is the exclusive representative of more than 95,000 state employees.

SEIU Local 1000 entered into negotiations understanding the economic crisis gripping California and the nation and negotiated a contract that would have ultimately saved the state over \$350 million. In addition, we recognize the rising need for services we provide during times of crisis such as support for the unemployed, job training for veterans and ensuring uncollected taxes are collected.

That disaster is nothing compared to the pending catastrophe that is coming as soon as July 1, 2010. Due to multiple court decisions, if there is no state budget in place by that date, state employees will be subject to being paid the federal minimums as required under the Fair Labor Standards Act. For most employees, this will be the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. AB 1699 will prevent economic disaster for state employees and preserve the State of California as a viable employer.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, California faces a \$20.7 billion deficit over the next 19 months portending another year of acrimonious, difficult budget negotiations, and quite possibly another stalemate. The California State budget has not been approved by the June 30 constitutional deadline in 15 out of the last 20 years. In three of these years, budget deadlocks extended into September. On five other occasions, impasses continued into August.

If state employees go to work, they should be paid in full and on time. If they are not, over 200,000 state employees – already teetering on the brink of financial disaster because of the furloughs forced on them by the Governor – will be shoved off the edge of the cliff and be unable to meet their basic financial obligations. This will greatly exacerbate the economic difficulties California is experiencing.

YVONNE R. WALKER  
President

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Without AB 1699, more homes will go into foreclosure and more jobs will be lost, that is why SEIU Local 1000 is urging to act quickly and decisively in enacting AB 1699.

Sincerely,



YVONNE R. WALKER  
President

cc: Members of the California State Assembly