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2014

UNION UPDATE

LOCAL 1000
SEIU
Stronger Together

Income inequality

Local 1000 backs bill to track public subsidies to corporations

Bill would show which companies force employees to rely on taxpayer-funded assistance programs

A key committee has passed a Local 1000 sponsored bill to track companies whose workers have to rely on on public benefits.

The Assembly Labor & Employment Committee voted on April 23 to approve AB 1792, authored by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), and send the bill to the Appropriations Committee for approval.

“AB 1792 is central to our union’s commitment to fighting income inequality in California,” said Local 1000 President Yvonne R. Walker. “Public assistance programs were designed as a hand up for workers going through tough times, not as a permanent hand out to corporations that are turning billion dollar annual profits while paying poverty wages. Yet, taxpayers are increasingly subsidizing the low-road business model used by some of the largest and most profitable corporations in the world.”

Employer subsidy

AB 1792 requires the state Department of Finance to prepare an annual, publicly available report to the Legislature identifying employers whose workers must rely on public benefit programs to support their families. The report will include all employers with over 25 employees who have workers receiving public benefits through the Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKS, or the Women, Infants and Children programs.

The report will expose the number of workers every company employs who are forced to rely on public assistance to support their families. The total cost to taxpayers for each company’s workforce will also



Shannon Workman, a fast-food worker and single mother in Sacramento, testified in support of the employer disclosure bill.

be documented. The Legislature will receive a copy of the public report annually.

The committee heard testimony from a fast food industry worker who relies on public assistance to support her child, as well as a UC Berkeley researcher and representatives of Local 1000 and other allies.

“I work because I take pride in supporting myself and my family,” said Shannon Workman, a fast food worker and single mother in Sacramento. “I don’t want to rely on public assistance. But the fact is - it’s not economically possible to get by in Northern California on the wages they pay at most fast food restaurants and retail stores. If you have kids, you pretty much have to rely on public assistance.”

UC Berkeley researcher Megan Scott said that there are thousands of low-wage employees in the same predicament as Workman.

“In the fast food industry, our research found that more than half of front-line fast food workers and their families participate in one or more of the four largest public benefit programs,” said Scott of the UC Berkeley Labor Center.

“California taxpayers spend \$717 million each year to provide this much-needed aid to fast food workers and their families,” Scott said.

Resource Center

Monday-Friday
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
866.471.SEIU (7348)

Website

seiu1000.org

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Thousands will make their voices heard June 3 – *Join us!*

Registering to vote and voting by mail has never been easier

California has come a long way in just a few short years—from furloughs and foreclosures, to raises for our families and new jobs in our neighborhoods.

There's still a long way to go

The cost of living keeps getting higher, so we're working harder than ever just to get by. Working families are falling further and further behind, while corporations and millionaires aren't even paying their fair share to keep California going.

Those same corporations and billionaires will buy the 2014 elections if we let them. That's why people like you are stepping up across California to make sure we elect leaders who will fight for working people. On June 3, join the tens of thousands of Local 1000 members across California making their voices heard in support of leaders who will make our economy work for everyone, not just for the wealthiest few.

Your vote is your power. Make sure your voter registration is up to date by May 19, and join your coworkers and neighbors at the polls on June 3.

It's never been easier to register to vote or to cast your ballot by mail. Here's how:

Register to vote—online

It has never been easier to register to vote in California than right now—anyone with a driver's license can register electronically. The California Secretary of State, in coordination with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), has developed a system where anyone with a signature on file with the DMV can register to vote or change their registration entirely online.

VOTING INFO

To register to vote, go to:

sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

Deadline to register or re-register to vote

- In order to vote in the June 3 election, your registration must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than May 19.

You need to re-register to vote when:

- You move to a new permanent residence,
- You change your name, or,
- You change your political party.

Voting by mail is quick and easy

- Any registered voter may vote using a vote-by-mail ballot. Registered voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot (permanently or on a one-time basis) for an upcoming election.
- For the June 3 election, your application must be postmarked no later than May 27. If you apply online or in person at your county elections office, the deadline is also May 27.
- Get vote-by-mail information from the California Secretary of State's Office at sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm#apply