

**Supporting the Work of the Fairness Project for Racial
and Economic Justice through Loan Forgiveness**

RESOLUTION 32-20

Background:

In September 2018, the SEIU-UHW Executive Board voted to loan the Fairness Project \$3 million to continue our ground-breaking work of raising minimum wage, expanding healthcare coverage, enacting paid sick leave and other popular economic policies. While \$1 million of that loan has been repaid, \$2 million remains outstanding.

SEIU-UHW founded the Fairness Project in 2015 and the financial support of our union has been the financial backbone of the organization. This support has made possible the success of 20 of the 21 ballot measures the Fairness Project has supported, delivering change to more than 17 million people including:

- Raising the minimum wage in nine states and delivering more than \$16 billion into the pockets of nearly 10 million workers since 2016;
- Expanding Medicaid in six states bringing healthcare coverage to 830,000 people;
- Implementing paid sick leave laws in Washington, Arizona, Michigan, and San Antonio and paid family and medical leave in Colorado; and
- Ending predatory payday lending in Colorado.

For five years, the Fairness Project has made it possible for regular people across the country to create meaningful economic and healthcare improvements in their lives, when their state governments have refused to do so. In short, the Fairness Project provides hope. Now, the Fairness Project is working with racial justice advocates in communities across the country to explore police reform and criminal justice policies that can be implemented through ballot initiative.

Resolution:

Whereas, the Fairness Project has been an incredibly successful vehicle to raise wages, expand healthcare and bring other popular economic change to millions of people across the country.

Whereas, SEIU-UHW's financial support has made the success of the Fairness Project possible.

SEIU-UHW Executive Board Meeting – December 2020

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Amended: _____

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Whereas, all of the funds donated and loaned to the Fairness Project have been used to advance the cause of concrete economic change through ballot measures.

Whereas, the Fairness Project is now turning its focus to address racial justice initiatives, a key priority of SEIU-UHW.

Therefore, be it resolved that the SEIU-UHW Executive Board forgives the remaining balance of \$2 million out of the original \$3 million loan to the Fairness Project and renews its continued financial support through our budget process for future ballot initiative campaigns in support of racial and economic justice.