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SEIU Local 73 Calls President Biden's American Rescue Plan Passage Major Victory for Working Families

Chicago, IL – “The passage of President Biden’s American Rescue Plan is a major victory for working families,” said Dian Palmer, President of SEIU Local 73.

The bill provides funding for America’s hardest hit, predominantly Black and Brown communities.

“We have seen first-hand the risks our frontline, essential workers are facing in schools, hospitals, and government offices,” said Palmer. “President Biden’s plan focuses on the workers and communities that have been neglected for decades prior to the pandemic and sets us on a path towards recovery.”

Illinois will receive significant relief funding to deal with the economic impact of the ongoing pandemic including \$7 billion for the State of Illinois, nearly \$1 billion for Cook County, and nearly \$2 billion for the City of Chicago.

“It is important that our elected leaders use these funds in a manner that will directly benefit working families,” said Palmer.

Local 73 is advocating for:

- \$350 million to fund the state’s commitment to the equitable school funding formula.
- 5% increase in higher education budget to make up for two decades of cuts and flat funding.
- Increase funding at the Secretary of State offices to ensure adequate staffing.
- Expand health clinics in Cook County to cover underserved communities.

“Unfortunately, Illinois cannot count on federal funding like this in 2022 and beyond. Instead of postponing our response to fiscal problems, we should use our resources today to prevent them from becoming worse in the future. There are many steps Illinois legislators can take to prevent the fiscal problems that we know will affect the future wellbeing of our state.”

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 29,000 workers, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in school districts, municipalities, social service agencies, and many other job classifications in Illinois and Indiana. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families.