



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UIUC Caught Retaliating Against Building and Food Service Workers

Champaign, IL – On September 16, SEIU Local 73 discovered that multiple departments at the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign unilaterally implemented a blanket policy requiring all employees to provide “acceptable medical evidence” when requesting sick leave. Unilaterally implementing this new policy violates the collective bargaining agreement and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. SEIU Local 73 has begun the process of filing an Unfair Labor Practice charge against UIUC.

“The University engaged in Unfair Labor Practices by requiring any employee wanting to use earned sick time to provide medical documentation or be at risk of receiving discipline, regardless of whether the University has any legitimate reason to suspect sick leave abuse. We believe this is a direct response to the union's rejection of their latest contract offer. We are disappointed in the University's behavior in trying to punish sick employees, remain committed to obtaining what's best for our members, and are prepared to strike,” said **Ryan Neitzel, union bargaining committee member and Building Service Worker.**

SEIU Local 73 represents 766 Food Service and Building Service Workers who have been in contract negotiations for eight months and overwhelmingly voted to strike on July 24. Workers have rejected management's proposals twice and recently voted down the latest contract proposal on September 13.

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SEIU Local 73 represents more than 35,000 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.