

# Reclaiming Worker Power Energizing Our Movement

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

## RESOLUTION ON FULL FUNDING AND STAFFING FOR THE SSA RESOLUTION #2024.24

WHEREAS, a record 11,400 Americans reach age 65 every day, and 67 million beneficiaries (up 25% since 2010) receive an earned monthly benefit from the Social Security Administration (SSA), with nearly \$1.5 trillion to be paid this year, timely service has never been more needed; and

WHEREAS, Congress does not raise revenue or increase deficits to pay for SSA administration, but instead sets a Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) that may be drawn from the \$2.8 trillion Social Security Trust Funds to run the program, including pay and benefits for the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the LAE has dropped from 1.26% of Trust Fund expenditures in 2015 to just 0.94% in 2024; and LAE since 2010 is down 19% with inflation considered and staffing down 11% (nearly 12,000 positions); and

WHEREAS, crushing work backlogs and crashing employee morale have changed SSA from one of the best places to work in the Federal government to one of the worst according to the annual Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, making hiring and retention of employees very difficult; and

WHEREAS, on average, callers to the SSA toll-free number wait 38 minutes on hold to speak to an agent; disability benefit applicants wait 8 months for an initial decision, 7 more months if they request reconsideration, and 12 months if they request a hearing (with 30,000 applicants dying each year before receiving a final decision); and

WHEREAS, a crippled SSA reduces public support for the programs it administers, leaving those programs more vulnerable to attack by the enemies of Social Security; and

WHEREAS, the President has requested \$15.4 billion LAE for next year, an improvement over this year's \$14.1 billion, it would add just over 1700 workers and would not restore the level of service that workers paid for and deserve; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council supports the April 30, 2024 request to Congressional appropriators by the American Federation of Government Employees for a \$19.2 billion LAE for fiscal year 2025, amounting to 1.2% of Trust Fund expenditures to address the service delivery crisis; and be it finally

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RESOLVED, that the WSLC share the approved resolution with the Washington Congressional delegation, and with the AFL-CIO at the national and state levels, requesting their support.