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NO GRAND BARGAIN: PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

Whereas, the real national deficit was caused by wars, tax cuts for the richest, reckless financial speculation, and bank bailouts; and

Whereas, both Democrats' and Republicans' proposals would cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other vital safety net programs; and

Whereas, the proposed program cuts would hit women, people of color, and children hardest, the very populations that have most suffered unemployment, wage discrimination and stagnation, homelessness, food insecurity, and lack of medical care and education over the last 40 years of wealth transfer to the top; and

Whereas, focusing on the "middle class" hides the problem of expanding poverty; and

Whereas, even though Social Security has not contributed a cent to the deficit, and the Social Security Trust Fund is entirely solvent through 2038, the "Grand Bargainers" have discussed lowering benefits by raising the retirement age, changing the COLA formula using CPI, which increases at an even slower rate than the current inflation adjustment, and would cut benefits for current and future retirees affecting, younger beneficiaries, veterans and women; and

Whereas, there are 29 U.S. Senators, including Sen. Boxer but not Sen. Feinstein, who have signed a letter initiated by Sen. Bernie Sanders demanding no cuts to Social Security, explaining that Social Security cannot contribute to the deficit, and that it is fully funded by workers and their employers; and

Whereas, Democrats and Republicans have used the "Fiscal Cliff" as a guise of "shared sacrifice" when our real need is stable, well-paying jobs for the tens of millions of un- or under-employed workers, and the rebuilding the nation's debilitated infrastructure, education, housing, and distorted medical system; and

Whereas, health insurance corporations continually escalate health care costs and cause workers to carry more of the cost burden,

Therefore, be it Resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council endorse and support the following:

NO CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, MEDICAID, OR OTHER SOCIAL PROGRAMS. No cuts in eligibility range, benefit amounts, or in cost-of-living increases, no means testing of benefits, no out-of-pocket cost increases, and no cuts to providers. Scrap the cap on payroll taxes (FICA) and require those earning more than \$110,100 to pay FICA on all their income.

MAKE CORPORATIONS AND THE RICH PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE WITHHELD FOR DECADES. Restore the pre-Bush tax rates on the top 2%. No compromises such as eliminating classes of deductions or caps on total deductions that could ease the burden on the 2% and/or penalize low- and middle-income people. No decrease in corporate tax rates. More revenue through additional tax brackets on million-billionaires, tax investment and inheritance income as regular income.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council circulates this resolution among union membership urging them to support actions on this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council send a letter to both Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Sen. Harry Reid based on this resolution

Submitted by Conny Ford, OPEIU Local 3; Maria Guillen, SEIU Local 1021; and Alan Benjamin OPEIU Local 3 and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on November 26, 2012.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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