

In the spring, we focused our attention on the Legislature.

We joined forces with allies like the Oregon PTA, AARP and Children First for Oregon as well as other unions to pass legislation that will help to reduce the budget gap and bring some fairness back to our tax system, making wealthy Oregonians and large corporations pay their share for the services Oregonians count on.

We lobbied at the Capitol, testified at hearings, spoke at town halls, sponsored a community forum and marched through Portland. We posted letters, sent emails and made phone calls. We wrote letters to the editor, produced op-ed pieces and contributed to blogs. We made sure our voices—and those of the Oregonians we serve—were heard loud and clear.

And that part worked. We helped to pass a budget that preserves services, saves jobs and has enough funds devoted to our contracts to ensure that front line workers will not have to shoulder the burden of the economic downturn alone.

Now we must turn our attention to the Governor.

Governor Kulongoski needs to do his job and apply funding provided by the Legislature to settle a fair contract. So far he is shrugging off the legislative budget note calling for no more than \$65 million in savings from state and university workers, insisting on far deeper cuts and demanding that public workers bear an unfair share of the burden.

Last week, after it became clear that the Governor was defying the Legislature's intent, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Dave Hunt wrote to Governor Kulongoski and SEIU Local 503 Executive Director Leslie Frane reiterating that there is no reason for deeper cuts than they've laid out in the budget.

We are willing to step up and be a part of the solution. We've said so from the start of negotiations—even before the start when we proposed foregoing bargaining altogether if it would help the state and the people we serve. But we expect equity and respect: a fair contract that retains step increases and calls for no more furlough days than are actually necessary.

We need to get this message to the Governor. Have everyone you know call him at 503.378.4582 today. And tomorrow. And every day until we have a fair resolution. And get postcards from your steward or organizer for friends and relatives to mail.

At the beginning of August we plan to turn up the heat, starting with statewide informational picketing on August 5th. Join the informational picketing in your community that day!

Call your steward or organizer for details, check your e-mail and visit www.seiu503.org for news, and **keep those calls coming!** If we stand strong and stand together, we will prevail!

QUALITY
is part of the bargain

SEIU making Oregon
even better

