

**RESOLUTION 21-24**

**TO URGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS THE  
“PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT”**

WHEREAS, the right to form or join a union is a fundamental right embedded in federal law and outlined in the international 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has previously recognized this fundamental right through adoption of Resolution 07-10, which supported and called for the passage of federal legislation that would help protect this right; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington is committed to protecting and expanding workers’ rights and the right of workers to organize and form unions; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington is a community that supports unions and recognizes unions as integral in fighting for working people; and

WHEREAS, according to the Economic Policy Institute, worker productivity has been increasing substantially for more than four decades, but workers’ wages have barely increased relative to those productivity gains<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, “the wealth divide among upper-income families and middle- and lower-income families is sharp and rising” in the U.S. since 1983<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, a sizeable share in the growth of economic inequality in the US between 1979 and 2019 is due to a significant decrease in worker unionization (Economic Policy Institute)<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the rise in economic inequality and poverty has far-ranging repercussions on issues including affordable housing, public safety, public health, quality education, infrastructure, combatting the ecological crisis, mitigating and adapting to the climate emergency, and more; and

WHEREAS, the federal *Protecting the Right to Organize Act* (“PRO Act”) would preempt state-level “right-to-work” legislation, which would benefit workers in Bloomington and across Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Act is a historic proposal that restores fairness to the economy by strengthening the federal laws that protect workers’ rights to organize a union and bargain for higher wages and better benefits; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Act includes other initiatives to improve workers’ rights including redefining who is an employee in the modern “gig” economy, making retribution against workers seeking to organize a union illegal, and protecting the right of unions to encourage secondary strikes in solidarity with other labor groups;

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<sup>1</sup> “The Productivity-Pay Gap.” Updated May 2021. Economic Policy Institute. Available from [https://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/#:~:text=Since%201979%2C%20pay%20and%20productivity,\(after%20adjusting%20for%20inflation\)](https://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/#:~:text=Since%201979%2C%20pay%20and%20productivity,(after%20adjusting%20for%20inflation))

<sup>2</sup> “Trends in Income and Wealth Inequality,” Pew Research Center, January 2020. See <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2020/01/09/trends-in-income-and-wealth-inequality/>

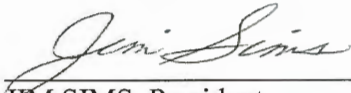
<sup>3</sup> “Weakened Labor Movement Leads to Rising Economic Inequality,” Economic Policy Institute, January 2020. See <https://www.epi.org/blog/weakened-labor-movement-leads-to-rising-economic-inequality/>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT;


SECTION 1. The City of Bloomington endorses the *Protecting the Right to Organize Act* and urges the United States Congress and the Biden Administration to pass it.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, to the Indiana Congressional delegation and the President of the United States.


PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 21 day of July, 2021.

  
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JIM SIMS, President  
Bloomington Common Council

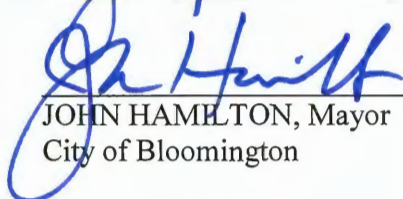
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 22 day of July, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2021.

  
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JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution is sponsored by Councilmember Sandberg and co-sponsored by all councilmembers. It recognizes as a fundamental right workers' ability to unionize, calls upon the United States Congress and Biden Administration to pass the *Protecting the Right to Organize Act*, and directs the City Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the Indiana Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States.

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Legal, Mayor