



## **Statement by Interreligious Network for Worker Solidarity (IN4WS) on the SEIU Airport Workers United**

IN4WS met with SEIU leadership working with Airport Workers United. We learned that essential airport service workers at airports across the country are making demands for Congress to fix air travel for passengers and airport service workers. This comes at a critical time because the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is being considered: the U.S. House of Representatives has passed its version of the reauthorization bill, and the Senate is finalizing its own. SEIU Airport Workers United is demanding Congress help stabilize air travel and make our airports safer and more efficient by including the Good Jobs for Good Airports fair wage and benefits standards in the FAA reauthorization bill. These standards will

- Set a level playing field for wages using the process set out in the Service Contract Act, and ensure access to meaningful health insurance and paid time off standard for airport service workers. 147,000 workers would receive raises and 157,000 workers would have access to health insurance.
- Help stabilize air travel for passengers
- Reduce turnover, making airports safer and more efficient

The airport service workforce consists primarily of Black, brown and immigrant individuals and their wages and standards have barely improved in 20 years and few have affordable healthcare or paid sick days. This is unacceptable considering how substantially our economy has changed; how inflation costs have risen, and how airlines are bringing in billions in profits. People must be able to take care of themselves and their families regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, background, or status. This is largely determined by their treatment in the workplace and whether or not they receive just wages and health benefit standards.

The Interreligious Network for Worker Solidarity ([in4ws.org](http://in4ws.org)) stands in unity with SEIU Airport Workers United in the moment to call for equitable and just treatment of airport workers so they have opportunities to thrive. We call on all people of faith to stand with us. Those who travel or whose loved ones travel have benefited greatly from the workers, security officers, janitors, baggage handlers, wheelchair attendants, skycaps, cabin cleaners, and fuelers, who help keep airports safe and running.

We believe that care should be reciprocated back to them. Drawing upon the tenets of their traditions, faith leaders and religious organizations from across the religious/ spiritual spectrum have, for decades, voiced their recognition of the human dignity and value of all work and workers. Our support is held in solidarity with workers' struggles and quest for equity, liberation, and the opportunity to thrive. As an interfaith network our faith leaders draw from various sacred



texts that guide our support. For example, the Islamic text of the Quran (11:85) states, “And O my people! Give just measure and weight, nor withhold from the people the things that are their due.” The employer-worker relationship must be based on justice and mutual consent, honoring the dignity of the worker. To illustrate this, it is ordained that workers’ wages should be clearly agreed upon before a worker commences his or her work, and these wages must be paid promptly. Our hope is that Congress ensures wage and benefit standards for airport service workers are in place through the FAA Reauthorization to ensure that employers and workers can begin to live out the moral vision of equity and liberation for all.

IN4WS is a non-partisan, national movement of clergy, faith leaders, and individuals from multiple faith traditions. Our shared values of deeply rooted faith, human dignity, equity, interconnectedness, and liberation for all workers move us to advance worker justice. We are united in a moral vision of a more just and equitable economy with opportunities for workers to thrive. We are committed to leading and learning, supporting and building, organizing and advocating alongside workers, faith communities, worker organizations, worker centers, and unions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. L. Robin Murray".

Rev. L. Robin Murray, Executive Director  
and the Board of Directors