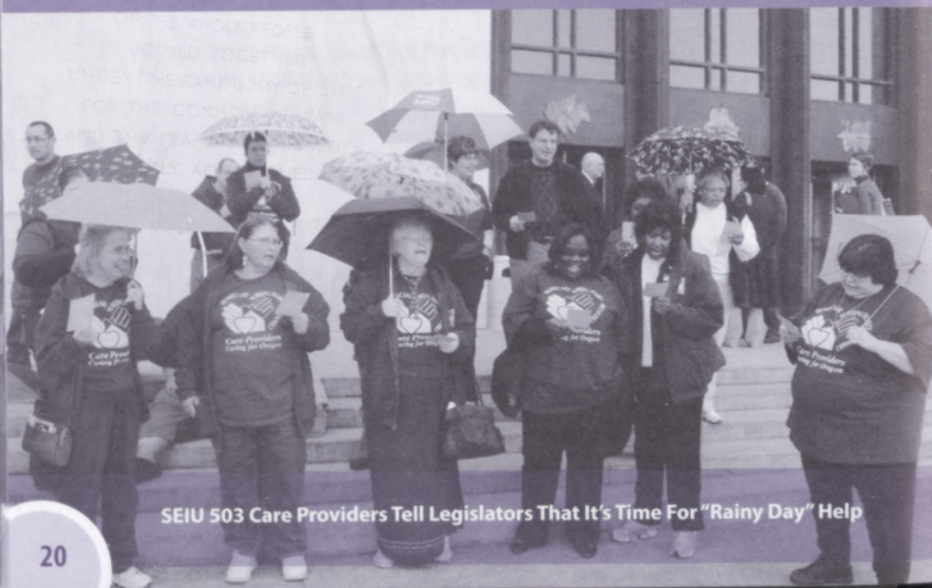
Legislature Preserves Services and Jobs by Taxing Profitable Businesses and the Richest Oregonians

The legislature voted to fill nearly a quarter of the state's budget hole with a tax increase on those who are still getting ahead in this economy. The fight to modestly increase taxes on some of Oregon's most profitable corporations and wealthiest residents was one of the toughest of the session.

Before the law was changed, two-thirds of Oregon corporations paid the $10 corporate minimum income tax. Corporations currently pay for only 6% of the state budget compared to 18.5% in the 1970's. The change the legislature made was a good step towards making the tax system fairer and to ensure that those in need get the services they deserve.

The corporate tax increase should have been a slam dunk. But getting even this $261M tax increase passed was a tough fight — and it isn't over yet. Both taxes will have to survive a ballot referral in January.

Those in need of services and front-line public employees made the case to legislators about the severity of the proposed cuts. Care providers and state workers went toe-to-toe with corporate lobbyists. Progressive allies from groups like AARP worked alongside homecare workers to make the case for senior services. Front-line DHS workers worked with Children First for Oregon to explain the risk that cuts posed to abused and neglected children. OYA members worked with the Partnership for Safety and Justice to fight layoffs and furloughs that would have harmed at-risk youth.



SEIU 503 Care Providers Tell Legislators That It's Time For "Rainy Day" Help