

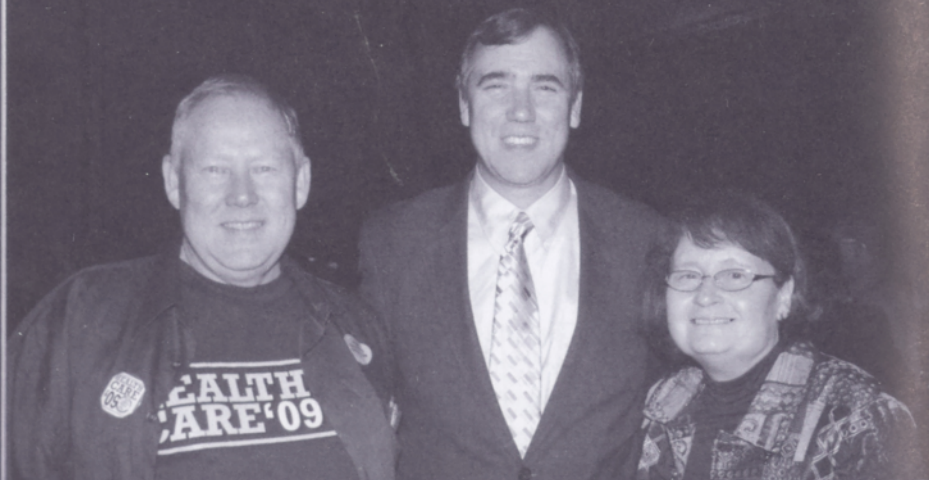
# And from Friends in DC, Federal Dollars Helped Save Thousands of Oregon Jobs

## Care Providers Were Among Those Most Impacted

The first major piece of legislation President Obama signed was the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA) also known as the Stimulus Package. This legislation was the first action by Congress to address the human impact of the economic crisis, and it has already made a huge impact in Oregon, preserving thousands of jobs and creating thousands more.

Services provided by SEIU members were particular beneficiaries of stimulus money. One of the most important components of the stimulus package was an increase in the Federal Medicaid Match (FMAP) rate. The federal government increased the percentage of Medicaid cost it covers from 62.45% to 73.72% in Oregon. This brought over a billion dollars into Oregon and saved thousands of jobs in the long-term care and healthcare industries. It also helped to prevent widespread cuts in reimbursement rates and pay for nursing home, adult foster home and homecare workers.

Medicaid rates were not the only part of the stimulus package that saved SEIU member jobs. Dramatic increases to the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds helped maintain eligibility for 3,600 families per month and the wages of over 18,000 child care providers, including 5,500 represented by SEIU, for a year. Increased federal funds for Food Stamp eligibility work allowed the Department of Human Services to begin hiring 255 new Self Sufficiency workers. **Without the Federal Stimulus Package, Oregon would have had to slash public services by almost \$2 Billion more.**



U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (center with UofO member-leader James Jacobsen and Local 503 President Linda Burgin) fought hard for more than \$1 Billion in federal funding that protected critical services for vulnerable Oregonians.