

## **Building a Better Future for Home Care through Members' Voices**

### **Resolution 06-11**

Whereas, after making great strides in improving conditions for home care workers and clients, SEIU has been locked in a multi-year defensive fight to protect the home care program and the wages and benefits of home care providers from budget cuts at the state and county level;

Whereas, the majority of home care workers in California do not receive wages that can sustain a family and do not receive adequate, affordable healthcare coverage; retirement security, paid time off or other benefits that they deserve;

Whereas, elected officials hold the power to make decisions about homecare rights, responsibilities, hours, wages, and benefits.

Whereas, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014 provides an opportunity to re-invent the healthcare delivery system and strengthen the component of the system that provides care within the home;

Whereas, there is little to no training and no certification for home care workers, while the needs of home care clients are becoming more complex;

Whereas, home care workers do not have a recognized role in participating in treating and managing chronic conditions of their clients, nor are health outcomes and stability measured by county or state governments;

Whereas, due to the individual work site nature of home care, home care members are often isolated from each other and the union and it is challenging to engage large numbers of home care workers and obtain their ideas for improving the program;

Whereas, a committee of Executive Board members and staff from within the Home Care Division have been discussing ways to engage members in how we address these challenges;

Therefore be it resolved that SEIU-UHW will launch a program to engage the ideas of home care members in how the home care program can be re-invented and improved. This program will involve consultations with at least 6,000 home care members and/or 10% of the membership in each county. Members consulted through this process will then be encouraged to join neighborhood or regional groups to discuss their ideas with other home care workers. Through this process, the union will develop its campaign to improve the home care program, and seek to enact these changes through the state legislature by 2014.