

Transforming Our Union to Win a Better Future

Resolution 10-11

Proposal:

Approve funding for the signature gathering and campaign support for two healthcare ballot initiatives.

Background Information:

At our April 2011 board meeting, we passed a four-plank plan for change that included:

- engaging 10,000 leaders in meaningful roles both inside and outside the union;
- growing SEIU into a union of 1 million members in California;
- becoming the premier healthcare organization in California; and
- providing the highest level of representational excellence of any union in America.

At our board meeting in August, we launched the Let's Get Healthy California! Campaign – a statewide effort with community partners and others to improve health across California and lower the incidence of chronic disease by 50% over 10 years.

Since April, we have:

- engaged and recruited member leaders on a much bigger scale;
- organized more than 1,300 new members into SEIU-UHW;
- launched bargaining in a new way by asking employers to join us in our *Let's Get Healthy California!* effort and negotiate into our contracts wellness programs and other healthy provisions for members and outreach to improve health in our communities;
- demanded in bargaining that the hospital industry create a \$250 million a year fund to train the healthcare workers of the future and add 250,000 jobs to the state;
- won a court order to stop 20% cuts to home care provider hours; and
- completed over 25% of our Building a Better Future for home care conversations

What do these initiatives do?:

We believe that these initiatives, along with our other actions since April, are re-positioning SEIU-UHW in California and building our strength to negotiate better contracts, unite more workers in our union, and give us real strength to make positive changes in healthcare.

The Charity Care Act of 2012, increases the amount of charity care California hospitals provide by setting the minimum level of charity care at 5 percent of patient revenue.

The Fair Healthcare Pricing Act of 2012, prohibits hospitals from charging more than 25 percent above the actual cost of providing patient care in order to stop hospital overcharging and lower the cost of healthcare for everyone.

These initiatives have built-in safeguards to ensure that hospitals and hospital systems can comply while still remaining financially strong.

What is the process?

On November 23, 2011, SEIU-UHW submitted two ballot initiatives to the state for a vote in November 2012 general election.

In order to get on the ballot, 550,000 signatures of registered voters for each initiative need to be submitted to the Secretary of State. That means we have to gather 740,000 signatures for each initiative in order to make sure there are enough valid signatures.

Our members will need to gather signatures from their friends and families, and we will need to hire a firm that focuses on getting the signatures we need to qualify.

Be it resolved that SEIU-UHW is authorized to spend the resources to qualify the initiatives for the ballot and run a campaign for their passage based on the following costs:

Signature gathering: \$4.2 million

Legal fees and passage campaign: \$1.3 million

TOTAL: \$5.5 million

Be it further resolved that SEIU-UHW will reach out to other unions and partners to help us fund this effort to put the health back in healthcare in California.