

## Achieving a Strategic Agreement to Transform California Healthcare

### Resolution 03-12

#### **Proposal:**

If a comprehensive agreement can be reached with the California Hospital Association (CHA) that makes substantial progress towards fighting chronic disease, reducing cost, improving quality and improving the livelihoods of California's healthcare workers, authorize the President to NOT file two ballot initiatives (Limits on Hospital Charges and Nonprofit Hospitals- Required Minimum Charity Care).

#### **Background information:**

In April 2011, the SEIU-UHW Executive Board voted on a four plank plan to build on the strength of our union including:

- Recruiting and developing 10,000 leaders
- Organizing hundreds of thousands of workers in SEIU in California
- Becoming a premier healthcare organization
- Achieving excellence in representation.

In October 2011, the SEIU-UHW Executive Board launched Let's Get Healthy California, a campaign aimed at reducing chronic disease. Since that time, as part of the Let's Get Healthy California campaign, we have:

- Worked with the Governor's office to obtain an Executive Order making it the policy of the state to reduce chronic disease
- Introduced legislation to revamp the homecare delivery system to make it more effective for workers and clients in managing healthcare.
- Received a \$930,000 grant from the California Endowment to do enrollment and healthcare policy work in South Los Angeles.
- Highlighted proposals to improve the collective health of the healthcare workforce in our negotiations with major employers in the state.
- Worked in our communities and with our allies to promote awareness of improving health conditions and have captured the attention of politicians, the media and the hospital industry.

In December 2011, the SEIU-UHW Executive Board authorized spending to qualify the Limits on Hospital Charges and Nonprofit Hospitals- Required Minimum Charity Care initiatives for the November 2012 ballot. The union proceeded to initiate signature gathering and engage in public promotion of the two initiatives.

The hospital industry, recognizing the huge impact these initiatives would have on them, have expressed deep concern and started to get commitments to raise \$100 million to fight the initiatives. Because of their concern about the initiatives, the California Hospital Association, has reached out to SEIU-UHW to see if we can make an agreement to work together to fight chronic disease, lower healthcare costs, improve healthcare quality and improve the livelihoods of California healthcare workers, rather than spending tens of millions of dollars battling on the ballot initiatives.

- An agreement of this scope with the hospital industry has the potential for groundbreaking change in healthcare in California that would benefit the public, healthcare providers, and the people who deliver care on the frontlines. It could serve as a model for the entire nation.
- Initiative signatures would have to be filed in California counties by the end of April in order to qualify for the November 2012 ballot. Once filed, they cannot be pulled back. SEIU-UHW would likely have to raise tens of millions of dollars in order to prevail on the initiatives.

Be it resolved that SEIU-UHW President is authorized to not file the initiatives based on progress in discussions with the hospital industry on an agreement to achieve our goals of addressing chronic disease, improving the quality and reducing the cost of healthcare and improving the livelihoods of California's healthcare workers.