

WINNING FAIR WAGES AND TRAINING FOR HOMECARE WORKERS

RESOLUTION 12-14

Background: SEIU-UHW is currently circulating a petition for a ballot initiative in the November 2014 election called the Fair Wages and Training for Homecare Workers Act of 2014. The initiative, if passed, would raise wages for the 390,000 homecare workers in California \$1.00 an hour in November of 2014 and another \$1.00 an hour in January of 2016. It would also require and pay for 75 hours of training on paid time. Current homecare workers would have five years to complete the training.

Homecare workers currently make between \$8.00 and \$12.20 per hour in California and there is no formal training offered by the state. Many home care workers have not had raises in more than 4 years and most raises are not sufficient to keep up with the cost of living.

It will cost approximately \$2 million to collect the signatures to qualify the initiative for the ballot and \$2 million to run an effective campaign to pass it in November. SEIU-UHW has already paid \$1 million toward signature gathering from the Political Issues Account. SEIU-UHW needs to allocate an additional \$3 million to win this campaign.

The SEIU-UHW Strike and Defense fund stands at \$8.9 million, the highest it has ever been in the history of SEIU-UHW. The purpose of the Strike and Defense fund is to protect and defend members of the union. We have built it up from \$1.2 million at the time of the trusteeship. The strike and defense fund is funded by putting \$1 per member per month into it, per the Constitution and Bylaws. Homecare members pay into it, but they are prohibited by law from striking. The strike and defense fund has been used in the past to pay for alternative methods of fighting to protect and improve conditions for homecare workers, such as lawsuits against the state.

Whereas, SEIU-UHW members are leading on improving homecare in California by circulating petitions to put the Fair Wages and Training for Homecare Workers Act of 2014 act on the ballot in November 2014 which will increase wages by \$2.00 an hour and provide much needed training to avoid hospitalization of clients and injuries to workers.

Whereas, we need to fund the signature gathering and a campaign to pass the initiative.

Whereas, the SEIU-UHW Strike and Defense Fund stands at \$8.9 million, the strongest it has ever been.

Whereas, homecare workers contribute to the strike fund but cannot legally strike.

Therefore, be it resolved, that SEIU-UHW will allocate \$3 million from the SEIU-UHW Strike and Defense Fund to complete signature gathering and fund a campaign to pass the Fair Wages and Training for Homecare Workers Act of 2014.

SEIU-UHW Executive Board Meeting

Presented: 4/12/2014

Adopted: 4/12/2014

Amended: _____