

**LEADING TO REFORM MEDI-CAL IN 2015**

**ADOPTION OF THE 2015 BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION 14-14**

As healthcare workers, we have a unique role to play in fixing California’s Medi-Cal program and transforming healthcare in our state. We face big challenges but are committed to overcoming them for the benefit of Medi-Cal beneficiaries, providers, caregivers and Californians in general:

- The Medi-Cal program now covers more than 11 million Californians, more than any other “provider,” and will continue to grow under the Affordable Care Act;
- California has the *lowest* Medi-Cal (Medicaid) payment rate per patient in the country, which means the healthcare industry - hospitals, doctors, clinics and nursing homes - lose billions in treating Medi-Cal patients;
- These huge losses hurt everyone: Caregivers struggle because there’s just not enough funding for better wages and benefits; Medi-Cal patients cannot get care because providers won’t see them; and everyone ends up paying more for healthcare.
- The Medi-Cal program must be reformed or else our state will soon have a two-tiered healthcare system, with the private-paying “have’s” getting qualitatively better care than the “have-nots” on Medi-Cal, the majority of whom are women and children of color.

We face an added challenge because the Harris v. Quinn Supreme Court decision of 2014 has cut into the resources we need to lead on this action. However, we can overcome this challenge through exercising our leadership and prudently using our resources.

Therefore, be it resolved that SEIU-UHW adopts the 2015 budget as recommended by the SEIU-UHW Budget Committee dedicated to reforming Medi-Cal through:

Strengthening our member leadership teams with 10,000 members playing meaningful, substantial leadership roles, the 2015 budget:

- California Medi-Cal funding levels are decided by 120 elected legislators and 1 elected governor. We must have a robust Political Action Fund (PAC) to elect Medi-Cal champions. Our budget increases our PAC allocation to \$1.60 per member per month and continues our allocation of \$0.60 per member per month for political issues (PIC) for ballot measures. For budget purposes the increase in PAC shall be charged to the strategic organizing allocation.
- Funds lobby events to move our Medi-Cal reform agenda as well as improve the conditions for our home care members;

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Amended: \_\_\_\_\_

- Engage leaders in home care “blitzes” to counteract the impact of the Harris v. Quinn decision and give hope to thousands of home care workers; and
- Funds a 2015 Leadership Assembly that both builds unity and promotes leadership accountability.

Leading as a premier healthcare organization and moving Medi-Cal reform forward, the 2015 budget:

- Increases funds for member events to build on our 2014 success with our community partners by sponsoring Obamacare enrollment events with a Medi-Cal reform message; and
- Improves our communications to members and to the public through state-of-the-art, creative technology.

Achieving representational excellence, the 2015 budget:

- Adequately funds training and member lost-time for bargaining with Kaiser Permanente, Dignity Health, Sutter Health, and other independent hospitals, home care counties, and nursing homes;
- Focuses on expanding the successful Kaiser contract specialist program to the Hospital Division with its core team trainings, and improved mediation and arbitration process, which has resulted in legal cost savings;
- Restructures and improves the Nursing Home Division Steward Program; and
- Strengthens leaders’ ability to utilize the mandatory home care orientations we won to engage home care workers in furthering the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) of 2012 with its emphasis on skills training and increasing wages.

Moving toward our goal of organizing 300,000 healthcare members into our union, the 2015 budget:

- Dedicates the required SEIU 20% mandate for organizing for growth in our industry (\$14.6 million), including a strategic organizing fund for creative growth strategies and funding our obligation under the CHA Agreement to fix Medi-Cal,
- Utilizes the opportunities through our ground-breaking 2014 CHA Agreement for our member organizers to engage with not-yet union hospital workers.