

## LEADING ON FAIRNESS

### RESOLUTION 16-15

#### Background:

SEIU-UHW leaders have discussed at length how the labor movement is declining and is driving down the economic standards of working families. We understand that to reverse that trend we need to adopt a bold strategy that:

- Acts in a way that improves the standard of living for millions of people;
- Recognizes that the biggest challenges facing working people don't come from within the walls of our unionized facilities;
- Makes real improvements for all workers, not just union members;
- Understands that California cannot increase standards if we are an island in a sea of states across the country where workers are losing;
- Gives working people the ability to take direct action to raise their standard of living without relying only on politicians who have failed to get the job done;
- Provides opportunities for thousands of people to take leadership and build a movement.

We have supported the formation of a non-profit entity called The Fairness Project, whose mission is to support efforts in states across the country to place initiatives on the ballot that will directly improve economic standards. The Fairness Project will be an independent organization with its own staff and officers.

The Fairness Project is forming at a time when there is renewed interest and success in raising the minimum wage in cities and states around the country. It also is forming on the backdrop of SEIU's Fight for \$15 campaign, which has made a compelling case that we need to raise wages all across the country;

SEIU-UHW recently sold our office building in San Francisco, generating approximately \$4 million in cash. That money is in the Unity Corp., the non-profit organization that holds title to UHW's property.

#### Resolution:

*Whereas*, over the 34 years between 1979 and 2013, the wages of low-wage workers have fallen by 5% and the wages of middle-wage workers have stagnated;

*Whereas*, income inequality in the United States is at an all-time high, so the benefits of the growing economy only go to those at the top;

*Whereas*, the public overwhelmingly supports increasing the minimum wage;

*Whereas*, increasing the minimum wage, or the “wage floor,” creates upward pressure on wages for workers above the minimum wage, including homecare, nursing home and hospital service workers;

*Whereas*, the 2016 Presidential election represents an opportunity to bring millions of low-wage workers to the polls to vote in their economic interest;

*Whereas*, The Fairness Project has been established to support minimum wage ballot initiatives in cities and states across the country in the November 2016 election, and in future elections will support other initiatives to improve working peoples’ standard of living;

*Whereas*, Unity Corp. has generated approximately \$4 million in revenue from the sale of the San Francisco building that was not allocated in the budget for other purposes;

*Whereas*, Unity Corp has transferred \$4,045,536.74 in revenue from the sale of the San Francisco building to SEIU-UHW’s General Fund;

***Therefore be it resolved that*** the Executive Board authorizes that up to \$4 million from the sale of the San Francisco building shall be used to fund specific initiatives of The Fairness Project to support minimum wage ballot initiatives in cities and states across the country in the November 2016 election. Prior to contributing funds to support these initiatives, The Fairness Project will demonstrate to the satisfaction of the UHW President, that the initiative has a strong chance of contributing to raising the minimum wage in a city or state. Any funds from this allocation that are not contributed for this purpose by November of 2016 will become available for use by SEIU-UHW for other budgeted purposes.