Funding Our Campaign to get Healthcare Workers to Retirement with Wages, Benefits and Job Security Intact

RESOLUTION 18-15

Resolution:

Whereas, SEIU-UHW’s mission is to get its members to retirement age with their rising wages, job security and health and retirement benefits intact.

Whereas, SEIU-UHW leaders believe that the ballot measure is the most effective tool in addressing the policy issues that affect healthcare workers and our patients and our ability to secure our wages and benefits.

Whereas, California Hospitals have failed to effectively address the chronic underfunding of Medi-Cal, soaring hospital prices, lack of charity care, and skyrocketing Executive compensation as well as the right of healthcare workers to organize free of intimidation resulting in a hospital system that prioritizes profits and executive pay over rising standards for healthcare workers and quality care for over 30 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Whereas, SEIU-UHW has $4.2 million in its Organizing Reserve, money intended to be spent on strategic efforts to engage with the healthcare industry on the issues most important to workers and patients, which was not spent in 2015. This money is in addition to the $8.9 million strike fund and $3.6 million general reserve.

Whereas, the California Hospital Association has sponsored an initiative for the 2016 ballot that would wall off billions of dollars for hospitals without requiring them to control executive compensation, lower costs, improve quality or expand services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Whereas, the California Hospital Association's failure to meet its obligations to SEIU-UHW under the agreement frees SEIU-UHW from its obligations. The obligations we are no longer required to meet include the commitment of $10 million to the Labor Management Committee in 2016, money that can now be re-directed for other strategic purposes.

Therefore be it resolved that, SEIU-UHW will create a Political Campaign Account to support or oppose ballot measures in the 2016 election in order to limit wasteful spending of precious healthcare resources and improve accountability of hospital executives to healthcare workers and patients. SEIU-UHW will fund this campaign account with $3 million from its Organizing Reserve account.