



ANDREW L. STERN
International President

July 21, 2008

ANNA BURGER
International Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Advocate:

MARY KAY HENRY
Executive Vice President

On June 5th, SEIU completed our 24th International Convention. Over 2,000 SEIU delegates from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada met to celebrate our victories and to set the course of our work for the next four years.

GERRY HUDSON
Executive Vice President

ELISEO MEDINA
Executive Vice President

At every SEIU Convention, our members make decisions about our future, and about the key issues that affect our members and our communities. To that end, we passed a set of resolutions that addressed these priorities called *Justice for All* and committed to work to achieve the following:

TOM WOODRUFF
Executive Vice President

SEIU Healthcare
DENNIS RIVERA
Chair

- **Affordable, quality healthcare for all.**
- **The freedom to form a union for all working people.**
- **Quality services in our communities, with fair and reliable funding.**
- **An economy that rewards work, not just a few at the top.**
- **A clear path to citizenship for hard working, taxpaying immigrants.**

Council of Leaders
MITCH ACKERMAN
MARTHA BAKER
CARMEN BOUDIER
ALICE DALE
DAMITA DAVIS-HOWARD
TOM DEBRUIN
DANIEL FIELDS
LESLIE FRANE
TYRONE FREEMAN

CATHY SINGER GLASSON
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BYRON HOBBS
RICKMAN JACKSON
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DIAN PALMER
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JULIE SCHNELL
MILAGROS SILVA-BERMUNDEZ
DIANE SOSNE
MICHAEL THOMAS
SUE WEINSTEIN

We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you highlights of some of the resolutions passed by our members that are especially relevant to our work with providers of long term supports and services, the disability rights movement and to our members with disabilities.

Resolution on Rebalancing our Nation's Long Term Care System and Improving Consumer Choice of Long Term Care Services

Let it be resolved that SEIU will actively support federal and state initiatives to re-balance our nation's long-term care system to reallocate resources toward home and community based services, particularly consumer-directed care. Successful state balancing efforts will be good for union growth, good for consumers' quality care and good for the health of state Medicaid programs; and be it further resolved that SEIU will prioritize re-balancing our nation's long-term care system as an integrated part of our national health care reform strategy in 2009 and beyond.

1800 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
202.730.7000

330 W 42nd Street, 9th Fl
New York, NY 10036
212.947.1944



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Resolution in Support of Good Union Jobs for Persons with Disabilities

Let it be resolved that SEIU will take an ongoing leadership role to contribute to policy change that removes artificial barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities and emphasizes the abilities and innovations of people with disabilities who engage in any paid work.

SEIU will work in partnership with other groups to develop initiatives and policies that support employment of persons with disabilities in good union jobs with access to benefits.

SEIU will support health care policies such that no individual lose insurance when they lose a job, change jobs, or lose existing insurance when they get a job.

SEIU staff and members will be given the information they need to work with employers with respect to health benefits, COBRA health continuation protections, HIPAA, and pre-existing condition exclusionary policies and protections.

SEIU will develop and provide training and training materials for staff, stewards, and members on:

- **Federal laws on inclusive employment and relevant state initiatives**
- **Americans with Disabilities Act and reasonable accommodations**
- **Family Medical Leave Act**
- **Information on protecting and retaining access to benefits for persons with disabilities who are employed and/or self-employed**

SEIU, through its publications, websites and other communications with staff, members, employers and policy partners, will address cultural barriers and misinformation that limit the acceptance of persons with disabilities in the workforce. These will include highlighting:

- *The positive contributions made by disabled workers who are SEIU members;*
- *Innovative initiatives and best practices that support the employment of persons with disabilities in good union jobs with access to benefits.*



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SEIU will work with employers to create more flexible job descriptions and work rules that facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities. SEIU will create and share contract language that facilitates the employment of persons with disabilities.

SEIU locals will reject contract language that would create unnecessary barriers and de facto systemic exclusions that limit the employment of persons with disabilities.

SEIU will support the establishment and operation of worker with disabilities caucuses or committees at the levels of chapters, locals, the International and Change to Win.

SEIU Healthcare
DENNIS RIVERA
Chair

These resolutions convey our commitment to continuing to work to improve the lives and the health of hundreds of thousands of long term care workers and their consumers.

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SEIU is very proud of our work with the disability rights movement toward our shared goals of quality care and quality jobs in home and community based settings. We have been proud to support MiCASSA and look forward to continuing to work with the disability community in support of the *Community Choice Act*.

Through our combined political strength, we have made huge strides for long-term services that support workers and consumers. We look forward to continuing to develop the strong partnerships we have formed at the state and national level, and to seeing our vision of *Justice for All* realized.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rivera, Chair
SEIU Healthcare

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