

205A – Healthcare is a Human Right

WHEREAS everyone living in America including SEIU members, our families, and our communities face steep medical costs, struggle to navigate a confusing and inefficient healthcare system, and are denied equal access to healthcare services based on our race, gender, immigration status, and more, all of which compromise our health and security as workers, individuals, and families;

WHEREAS the American healthcare system allows the profit motives of providers, pharmaceutical companies, insurers, and other moneyed interests to leave us with unequal treatment access and poorer health outcomes at higher costs for consumers;

WHEREAS under our employer-sponsored health coverage system these high costs for critical life-saving care result in hard-fought battles for SEIU members at the bargaining table, potentially limiting our ability to bargain higher standards on wages, retirement security and workplace standards;

WHEREAS SEIU is firmly committed to the belief that everyone deserves quality and affordable healthcare as a human right, not a commodity;

WHEREAS SEIU stands for the equality of every individual without discrimination as to immigration status, yet the current system of healthcare coverage even after the much-needed improvements of the Affordable Care Act leaves many without access; and

WHEREAS SEIU members have worked across the United States and Puerto Rico to drive state-level innovations under the ACA in the provision of care and are ready to continue seeking out future opportunity to care for more people in better ways.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

1. SEIU will support, defend and promote the Affordable Care Act and will work to improve it as a crucial step toward our ultimate goal of building a publicly-financed single-payer system that will recognize healthcare as a human right with comprehensive benefits and a single standard of care;
2. SEIU will join in coalition with labor and consumers across the United States and Puerto Rico to advocate, educate, and organize for healthcare justice and a publicly financed single-payer system that will recognize healthcare as a human right with comprehensive benefits and a single standard of care;
3. SEIU will support the ability for states to innovate under the ACA including enacting state-based single-payer models and public options, and, when politically feasible, will advocate for single payer on a national basis; and
4. SEIU recognizes that our nations need healthcare systems with everybody included—regardless of immigration status—that includes the key priorities of affordability, universality, equity, equality, quality, participation, accountability, and transparency.