

**#207**  
**Proposed Resolution**

**SEIU Healthcare 1199NW**  
**for SEIU Convention May 2016**

**Pharmaceutical Costs Resolution**

WHEREAS pharmaceutical costs are an increasing affordability challenge for individuals and health plans, with some medication prices rising dangerously high—for example the injectable insulins Lantus and Humalog, which rose in cost 22.7% and 19.9% respectively from 2014-2015;; and,

WHEREAS pharmaceutical corporation profits are skyrocketing due to pure greed; and

WHEREAS the inability to afford medications to manage chronic disease puts millions of Americans every year at risk not only for illness or death but medical debt and bankruptcy; and,

WHEREAS affordable and quality health care is a human right and not a commodity limited to those who can afford it; and,

WHEREAS rising prescription drug costs threaten SEIU members' ability to bargain affordable healthcare benefits as healthcare costs rise and employers seek to shift more of the financial burden onto individuals;

Therefore, Be It Resolved

1. SEIU will prioritize federal and state legislative and executive action designed to study and address the problem of rising pharmaceutical costs due to corporate greed,
2. SEIU will bargain health plan designs that include pharmacy benefits that will ensure members can afford needed medications.
3. SEIU urges the federal and state governments to use their power as consumers to negotiate over drug prices with manufacturers and to pursue legislative solutions that facilitate this negotiation.

**Submitted Tuesday, April 19, 2016**