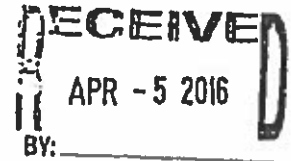


**#217**  
**Proposed Resolution**



**Resolution to the 2016 SEIU Convention**

**Student Loan Debt Crisis**

WHEREAS, student loan debt is a major crisis in the United States affecting 40 million borrowers with over 1.2 trillion dollars in debt, half in repayment status instead of being invested back in the economy and half in deferral, and student loan debt accounting for nearly 1/3 of the seriously past due debt payments in the United States;

WHEREAS, many SEIU members and their family members are struggling with student loan debt payments, with limited and narrowly focused options for relief;

WHEREAS, student loan debt is causing many to not be able to achieve, or delay achieving their American Dream;

WHEREAS, there are current proposals for student loan debt relief by those that are not allied with workers that will weaken worker power and some that amount to indentured servitude;

WHEREAS, SEIU has resources available and relationships with coalition partners and political allies to confront this nationwide crisis and offer a solution that will strengthen worker power, and the ability to create accountability for implementation of that solution with those political allies through the endorsement process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SEIU prioritize working together with coalition partners and political allies to develop a solution to the student loan debt crisis that will build worker power and restore the ability for those with student loan debt to achieve their American Dream.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SEIU hold those political allies accountable to implement the solution to the student loan debt crisis that will build worker power through the endorsement process for Presidential and United States House of Representatives and Senate candidates.

**Submitted by the Maine State Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989**