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21 southern California and 250 in northern  
22 California, in 2004 voted separately after  
23 hundreds and hundreds of meetings to merge in to  
24 UHW.

25 Today we are 150,000 health care workers

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1 strong.

2 More health care -- more hospital worker  
3 unions than any other union in SEIU, and No. 3 in  
4 long term care with 65,000 workers.

5 Local 250 was the first health care union  
6 in this country. 74 years ago, hospital workers  
7 in San Francisco and soon after nursing home  
8 workers organized in to Local 250.

9 In 1980, we organized the first home care  
10 contract in the west.

11 And in the '90s 15 counties of IHSS workers  
12 in winning the first home care contract in San  
13 Francisco.

14 Our vision for long term care workers is  
15 that they are all health care workers.

16 And if you are a CNA or a home health aide,  
17 you should make the same high wages and benefits  
18 that we have won for hospital workers whether you  
19 work in a hospital or in a nursing home or in

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20 someone's home.

21 In the '90s our nursing home workers went  
22 through great struggle.

23 And sacrificed a great deal to come upon a  
24 common expiration date to fight their employers  
25 to achieve that vision of hospital worker wages.

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1 As we speak today, we have 8,000 nursing  
2 home workers from 110 different nursing homes at  
3 the same bargaining table, to win organizing  
4 rights and hospital wages and family care and  
5 pensions and a real voice for workers.

6 The greatest position of power in the whole  
7 careers of these nursing home workers.

8 So for 74 years, the fabric of our union  
9 has been a health care workers union of long term  
10 care and hospital workers united as one.

11 That is why we have great power.

12 That is why we are one of the fastest  
13 growing unions and achieved great standards for  
14 all these workers.

15 Delegates, you are about to take a vote,  
16 that is a very serious vote, that is going to  
17 affect the lives of tens of thousands of workers.

18 And the vision that they have been working  
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19 for for decades.

20 And obviously, we know, that we are going  
21 to lose that vote tonight.

22 But I ask you to keep paying attention to  
23 this issue as it unfolds in the coming weeks.

24 If our international union officers have a  
25 vision that they are convinced is going to

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1 improve the lives of our long term care workers,  
2 then let our 65,000 members vote separately on  
3 that vision.

4 And not pooled in to a vote with another  
5 200,000 workers.

6 If they did a separate vote and voted to  
7 accept that vision, I would lead in our executive  
8 board in acceptance of that vote and hope that  
9 change happened.

10 However, if it is by this false democracy,  
11 and now I am speaking for our executive board,  
12 not Sal.

13 We cannot and will not accept that kind of  
14 vote.

15 MR. STERN: Mike one.

16 DELEGATE RAYFORD: I am a rank and file  
17 person.