

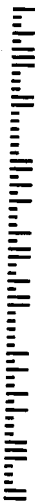
From _____

TO

SEIU HEALTHCARE
UHW
United Healthcare Workers
WEST
560 Thomas L. Berkeley Way
Oakland, CA 94612

Presorted
First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit No. 333

1 *****AUTO**3-DIGIT 200
Janet Shenk
International Union Guest
3821 Livingston St NW
Washington, DC 20015-2802



1740







560 Thomas L. Berkley Way • Oakland, CA 94612 • 510-251-1250 • Fax 510-763-2680
5480 Ferguson Drive • Los Angeles, CA 90022 • 323-734-8399 • Fax 323-721 3538

June 16, 2008

Dear SEIU Convention Delegates and Guests:

We appreciated the opportunity to meet many of you in Puerto Rico. We're writing to follow up on the important conversation that we all began in Puerto Rico about how to strengthen our great union. We're excited about a number of the initiatives that we adopted at the convention, including plans for an unprecedented political mobilization to support Senator Obama's candidacy. Similarly, delegates from our local union – SEIU United Healthcare Workers-West (UHW) in California – supported other core parts of a platform proposed by our union's national leadership, including expanding our organizing efforts and improving regional and national coordination among SEIU locals.

While we supported these broad objectives, we continue to have key differences with our national leaders about how to accomplish these goals. Over many months and at our recent convention, we've raised our profound concerns about changes inside SEIU that threaten to erode the democratic and "member-led" character of our union. Specifically, we've voiced our opposition to plans that would reduce rank-and-file members' control over collective bargaining and centralize decision-making power and resources in the hands of a small number of union officials based in Washington D.C.

Decades of experience have taught us that our union will only remain a powerful force for progress as long as its power remains firmly and democratically in the hands of its members. To this end, UHW's delegates to the convention proposed a number of reform measures even though we expected determined opposition from our union's national leaders. Among others, we proposed measures to...

- enhance members' rights in collective bargaining, including their right to elect their bargaining committee, review initial contract proposals and approve any agreement that affects their wages and working conditions.
- ensure members' rights to approve mergers of local unions and transfers of membership between local unions.

We also attempted to amend key proposals in order to safeguard democratic principles and to advance sensible policy goals.

- We attempted to amend a **new, centralized system of national and regional bargaining** by proposing language to ensure that rank-and-file members participate at every level of the bargaining process. In our view, the new centralized system will have harmful effects on members unless such safeguards are adopted. Notably, some SEIU locals will be exempted from the new system because of their affiliation agreements with SEIU.
- We sought to modify a new system of **remote call centers** that will provide telephone assistance to members when they have worksite problems. We proposed an amendment to ensure that these new call centers do not undermine the core fabric and strength of our union – trained worksite stewards and rank-and-file leaders.
- We attempted to amend a resolution on **national health reform** by proposing that SEIU continue to actively campaign for a "Medicare for All" system in order to establish a strong, progressive position in the healthcare debate.

www.seiu-uhw.org

In our view, there was too little debate on these important issues. Committees appointed by national leaders blocked all 13 of UHW's proposed resolutions and constitutional amendments from reaching the convention floor. Meanwhile, the reasonable changes that we proposed from the convention floor were voted down more in a show of political force rather than from a careful reading of the content and merit of each proposal.

In the end, even though our reform initiatives were not adopted, many delegates expressed appreciation for the discussion and debate that our proposals brought to the convention. We appreciate all of you who engaged with us on these important issues. We were heartened to see that, during each successive day of the convention, more and more of you voiced support for proposals to ensure member democracy and preserve members' control of their local unions.

It's important to note that, despite great pressure, independent candidates from nine separate local unions ran against the International Union's slate for International VPs. They drew significant support from almost every major local in California, including two-thirds of the votes from the largest public-sector local in the San Francisco Bay Area.

While these are clear successes, the convention also expanded the powers of national leaders to change local unions' jurisdiction and to punish local unions for various actions. We expect that our principled effort to ensure democracy and membership control of our great union will continue to be met with further challenges.

Most immediately, SEIU leaders have begun a process to review the jurisdiction of local unions that represent long-term care workers in California. Some are proposing that UHW's 65,000 long-term care members should be moved into a separate statewide local that would represent only long-term care workers. In our view, California's caregivers would be far stronger if all of SEIU's healthcare workers – whether they work in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living facilities or individuals' homes – were in a single statewide healthcare local. **Imagine the strength that California healthcare workers would have if united into a powerful 350,000-member California healthcare workers' union, speaking with one strong voice.**

We return to California with greater strength and determination to preserve our union's core principles of democracy and rank-and-file leadership. We are also encouraged to see that our efforts, and those of others, have sparked an important, ongoing debate inside our great union. We've enclosed a DVD with excerpts from our recent convention. Also please visit our website at www.seiuvoice.org for more convention coverage and other up-to-date information.

We thank you for your time and look forward to working together in our union's many campaigns. We will keep you informed of our ongoing efforts to strengthen SEIU so that it can play an even greater role in accomplishing the changes so desperately needed by workers, our families and the people we serve.

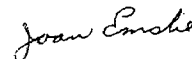
In Unity,



Sal Rosselli, President
United Healthcare Workers - West



Jorge Rodriguez, Executive Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West



Joan Emslie, Secretary-Treasurer
United Healthcare Workers - West

Tony Aidukas, UHW Vice President
Desert Regional Medical Center

Roberto A. Alvarez, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Bellflower

Claudia Arevalo, UHW Vice President
In-Home Supportive Services, San Francisco

Sonia Askew, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Oakland

Juanita Barbarin, UHW Vice President
Retirees

John Borsos, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Will Brennan, UHW Vice President
Olympia Medical Center

Mildred Brown, UHW Vice President
In-Home Supportive Services, Contra Costa

Lynn Bussey, UHW Vice President
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Rosie Byers, UHW Vice President
IHSS, San Francisco

Roy Chaffee, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Vallejo

Yolanda A. Chavez, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Oakland

Feng Mei Chen, UHW Vice President
IHSS, San Francisco

Leon Chow, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Will Clayton, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Teresita Collado, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Los Angeles

Ralph R. Comejo, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Rachel Coronado, UHW Vice President
Riverside Community Hospital

Mary Corson, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Panorama City

Barbara Escobar, UHW Vice President
Kaiser - Woodland Hills

Nancy Evans, UHW Vice President
Willow Pass

Michael Fenison, UHW Vice President
Centinela Hospital

Marilyn Freeman, UHW Vice President
Watts Healthcare Foundation

Florine Furlow, UHW Vice President
IHSS, Fresno

Mary Ellen Garcia, UHW Vice President
Kaiser - Hayward

Angela P. Glasper, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Antioch/Martinez

Glenn Goldstein, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Linda Gonzalez, UHW Vice President
Good Samaritan Hospital - Mission Oak

Robert Hardebeck, UHW Vice President
Garden Grove Hospital

Robert Hernandez, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Baldwin Park

Miguel Holguin, UHW Vice President
St. Bernardine Medical Center

Robyne L. Horn, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Santa Clara

Donald Hoskins, UHW Vice President
St. Mary's Medical Center – Long Beach

Gary Jackson, UHW Vice President
Dominican Hospital

Kimberly Jakab, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Sacramento

Derrell Joseph, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – South Bay

Lover T. Joyce, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Walnut Creek

Deborah Kirtman, UHW Vice President
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center

Paul Kumar, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Laura Kurre, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Stan Lacey/nr

Stan Lacey, UHW Vice President
Piedmont Gardens

Xiao Jiang Lai, UHW Vice President
IHSS, San Francisco

Barbara Lewis, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Stanley Lyles, UHW Vice President
Northridge Hospital Medical Center

Don Mariacher, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Redwood City

Dan Martin, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Pamela Martinez, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Sharon Martinez, UHW Vice President
Mercy General Hospital

Molly Miller, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Fontana

Maya Morris, UHW Vice President
St. Francis Memorial Hospital

Shirley Nelson, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Redwood City

Bebs Nonato, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Los Angeles

Debrah Ortega, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Orchard

Li Bao Pan, UHW Vice President
IHSS, San Francisco

Raisa Polonskaya/nr

Raisa Polonskaya, UHW Vice President
IHSS, San Francisco

Corey Puccinelli, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – South Sacramento

Ella Raiford, UHW Vice President
IHSS, San Francisco

Eloise Reese-Burns, UHW Vice President
Cottonwood Health Care Center

Abby Reeve, UHW Vice President
West Hills Hospital and Medical Center

Anne Stepp Regacho, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Stockton

Michael Rivera, UHW Vice President
Encino-Tarzana Regional Medical Center

Tena Robinson, UHW Vice President
IHSS, Sacramento

Rachel Rodriguez, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Daniel Romo, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Woodland Hills

Maria Samuel, UHW Vice President
Golden Gate

Fred Seavey, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Margaret Segura, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

David Shapiro, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Sacramento

Lynn St. Clair, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Santa Rosa

Wanda H. Talton, UHW Vice President
Pacifica Hospital of the Valley

Robert Thyfault, UHW Vice President
IHSS - Sacramento

Michael Torres, UHW Vice President
USC University Hospital

Martha V. Vazquez, UHW Vice President
St. Joseph's Medical Center

Jay Valencia, UHW Vice President
United Healthcare Workers - West

Sally Vetsch, UHW Vice President
Mercy Medical Center of Redding

Caroline Wandrick, UHW Vice President
Sutter Solano Medical Center

Brenda Washington, UHW Vice President
Grove Street Care Center

Marie White, UHW Vice President
IHSS - Sonoma

Lori Whyman, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Tustin-Santa Ana

Anita Wiltz, UHW Vice President
Golden Cross Health Care

Latasha Winslow-Beavers, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – Rancho Cordova

George Wong Jr., UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente – San Francisco

Rebecca L. Worcester, UHW Vice President
Kaiser Permanente - Sacramento

Mickiela Yagen, UHW Vice President
IHSS. Yolo

Helen York-Jones, UHW Vice President
California Pacific Medical Center

