



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

July 4, 2008

Jim Philliou, Director Long Term Care Division
 SEIU
 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20036

Dear Jim:

I'm writing to urgently reiterate earlier requests UHW has made for a copy of an SEIU database that analyzes the finances and other features of California nursing homes.

As you know, more than 7,000 members of UHW will be in contract negotiations with California nursing homes throughout 2008. This effort is the largest coordinated bargaining campaign ever conducted by our local union's nursing home members.

The database, which was prepared by SEIU researchers in California and Washington, D.C. during a multi-year period, would be extraordinarily valuable to our members who are in bargaining. It is the most comprehensive database of California nursing homes ever prepared by our International union and is an important tool for evaluating the operational and financial performance of our members' employers. It contains:

- multi-year data on nursing homes' finances;
- financial ratios that permit comparative analyses of nursing homes with competitors and statewide averages;
- patient-utilization data;
- patient-care indicators from state and federal data sources including staffing levels and violations of federal patient-care standards; and
- data on the ownership of nursing homes.

Nearly six months ago, Fred Seavey (UHW's Research Director) requested a copy of the database from Amy Adams, an SEIU staff leader based in Oakland, California. His request was denied, with International staff leaders explaining that they couldn't provide UHW members with a copy of the database without the approval of SEIU Local 6434 President Tyrone Freeman. I subsequently requested the database from other International staff leaders, who also refused to provide UHW with a copy of the database.

It is stunning that our International union would create a comprehensive database of California's nursing home industry, and then refuse to make it available to our local union, which represents 75% of SEIU nursing home workers in California. This refusal is even more surprising given that thousands of UHW members at more than 100 nursing homes are in bargaining with nursing homes during 2008.

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Sal Rosselli, *President*

Jorge Rodriguez, *Executive Vice President*

Joan Emstie, *Secretary-Treasurer*



Each year, UHW members pay millions of dollars of membership dues to our International union to fund its staff and operations, including its Research Department. There is simply no reason that this database should not be made available to UHW members, especially at a time when their future wages, benefits and working conditions are at stake.

I ask that you resolve this issue quickly. Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know when and where I can retrieve the database. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me on my cell at (510) 289-2727.

Sincerely,



John Vellardita

cc: Leonard Page
Gerry Hudson