



April 17, 2008

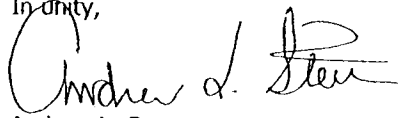
Nancy Evans
Maria Samuel
Ella Raiford
Brenda Washington
Eloise Reese-Burns
Anita Wiltz

SEIU United Healthcare Workers-West
560 Thomas L. Berkley
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Sisters:

I am in receipt of your letter of April 16, requesting that I order Local 6434 to cease communicating with the members of UHW. I reject that request. As you are aware, we strongly support the free exchange of ideas among our members, particularly about issues that affect their lives. I could not lawfully order one local union to cease communicating to members of the public, including members of other local unions, about union issues. But, even if I were able to do so, I would reject your request because doing so would suppress free speech rights and prevent UHW members from hearing ideas that differ from those of UHW's leadership on matters of importance to UHW's members. You must see the irony in making such a request, as your local pretends to be a champion of union member free speech and open debate.

As to your request to obtain access to Local 6434's membership list, we will allow Local 6434's leadership to make that judgment. If you have any legal basis for asserting that SEIU has a duty under its constitution or otherwise to facilitate your efforts to reach Local 6434's members through access to its list, please provide me with the support for that assertion by April 25, 2008, and I will respond promptly pursuant to my authority under the SEIU Constitution to make determinations on questions of law.

In unity,

Andrew L. Stern
International President

ANDREW L. STERN
International President

ANNA BURGER
International Secretary-Treasurer

MARY KAY HENRY
Executive Vice President

GERRY HUDSON
Executive Vice President

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Cc: Tyrone Freeman