

SEIU ULTCW

UNITED LONG TERM CARE WORKERS

February 2, 2015

Dear Community Leader,

As leaders, you are well aware of the need for us to provide community -based health care that focuses on real health outcomes while reducing overall healthcare cost. We expect that the number of seniors in our communities that will require in- home care service will double in the next 30 years. Because of this fact, homecare workers are expected to be the source of the largest number of new jobs across the U.S. economy over the next decade, with nearly 600,000 new home care workers needed. In order for us to meet the future demands of caregivers we must ensure a stable workforce by recognizing today the important contributions home care workers bring to those receiving care, to our communities and California as a whole.

SEIU-ULTCW members and leaders believe that at the center of meeting this upcoming demand are the 145,000 homecare workers in the County of Los Angeles who deliver quality care to our most vulnerable residents, including seniors and adults and children with disabilities. One important step to ensure their success in the new and changing environment is putting them on a pathway to \$15.00 an hour.

- The work of homecare workers often goes unnoticed as do the financial struggles caregivers and their families experience in order to provide this lifeline service to those in need
- Despite the increasing demand for home and community-based long term services and support and the projected job growth, these workers are paid among the lowest at an average of \$9.67 an hour
- Providing homecare workers with a living wage will generate demand for goods and services in the local economy, stimulate increased employment opportunities, help meet the rapidly growing need for this workforce and generate additional income which will in turn lead to additional spending in LA County
- Other communities across California including San Diego, Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco have taken steps to recognize the importance of creating a pathway to \$15.00 an hour as a standard to lift workers out of poverty and revitalize communities

If homecare providers are able to achieve a pathway to \$15.00 an hour all of LA will benefit. **I would like to invite you to a We Care LA Community Summit and Reception on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels, 555 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 at 6:00 PM to review the goals of our campaign and to get your feedback to ensure a victory for all of LA County.** Your input is critical to the success of this campaign and to the homecare workers who need your support.

Please contact Faith Culbreath, Special Assistant to the President, 213-434-2988, to answer any questions you may have and you can RSVP with Juan Carlos Garcia at 213-359-3283, juang@seiu-ultcw.org.

I look forward to seeing you on the 12th!

In Unity,

President Laphonza Butler, SEIU-ULTCW