



HEALTHCARE
seiu...workers who care.

SEIU's Quality, Affordable Health Care Principles

*We believe that health care is foundational and essential to our physical and mental well being.
Together with our allies, we will work to:*

Provide affordable, quality health care that all Californians can count on

All Californians should be able to get the health care they need when they need it at a reasonable cost and without gaps in coverage or access.

Guarantee that people get the care they need

An improved health care system should guarantee necessary benefits including preventive care and access to doctors, hospitals, and prescription drugs without unaffordable out-of-pocket costs.

Direct more health care dollars to health care

Our health care system needs to control the escalating costs of overhead, profits, and advertising and instead focus more of each dollar on health care.

Stop shifting costs to individuals

Employers, individuals, and government all have a responsibility to pay for health care and control costs. Merely shifting costs to individuals and working families fails to solve the cost crisis.

Protect the rights of patients and their doctors to make healthcare decisions

Patients and the doctors they choose should make healthcare decisions, not HMO's or insurance companies.

Meet the needs of the 21st Century economy

The changing nature of the job market, with its greater job mobility and increased reliance on self employment, and seasonal, part-time, and temporary work, puts us all at risk of falling through the gaps in our current healthcare system. An improved health care system must provide Californians with health security regardless of employment status.

Use our purchasing power to control costs and improve quality

Californians need to unite and use our huge purchasing power to get better deals on health care and prescription drugs than individuals and businesses large and small can get on their own.

Improve health and promote wellness through preventive care

Our health care system should focus on preventing illness and treating conditions like diabetes and hypertension, not just providing care once the damage is done. Prevention and timely care save lives and money.

Use information and technology to reduce medical errors

By using secure, confidential electronic medical records and other technological innovations, we can reduce medical errors.

Promote quality through recruiting, training, and supporting health care professionals

We have to have enough trained nurses, doctors, technicians, and others to make sure that everyone gets high quality care.

Strengthen the safety net and emergency services we all rely on. Every one of us should be able to rely on safety net health facilities for emergencies. We must strengthen and revitalize our public health system, which protects all of us from epidemics, terrorism, and communicable diseases.



SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION · CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL
Sacramento Headquarters · 1007 7th Street, 4th Floor · Sacramento, CA 95814
PH 916.442.3838 FAX 916.442.0976
www.seiuca.org