

## **2. Resolution for Organizing in Connecticut & in Non-Union States**

**WHEREAS**, the primary focus of CSEA SEIU Local 2001 is to fight for funding our contracts, wages, and the services we provide, and

**WHEREAS**, our Union also engages in lobbying for the rights of workers and for affordable healthcare for all Connecticut's residents, and

**WHEREAS**, our Union is only strong if we continue to push for the rights of unorganized workers, and

**WHEREAS**, the health insurance we currently have can only be maintained if healthcare is available to all Connecticut residents, and

**WHEREAS**, low Union density impacts our ability to negotiate the wages and benefits our families need, and

**WHEREAS**, workers in the South and Southwest face daunting obstacles when they try to organize, including "right to work" laws, lack of collective bargaining rights for public sector workers, limited support from politicians, and fierce employer opposition, and

**WHEREAS**, there are thousands of unorganized publicly funded workers in Connecticut that lack quality pay and benefits, and

**WHEREAS**, until we build a stronger Labor Movement nationwide and here in Connecticut, we face limits on our ability to influence politics, and

**WHEREAS**, SEIU has made huge strides in building the Labor Movement in states like North Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 played a significant role in helping organize State employees in North Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, the experience of organizing public employees in North Carolina is an invaluable training and development experience for members, leaders and staff of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, and

**WHEREAS**, many of the issues affecting our members are impacted by the political process, and

**WHEREAS**, the political work of the Union complements the work we perform at the bargaining table and worksites, and

**WHEREAS**, working families deserve to have a legislature that works for them, and

**WHEREAS**, elected officials make policy decisions about our wages, benefits and working conditions as well as make decisions that directly impact the quality of services that our members provide, and

**WHEREAS**, in these uncertain economic times, we need to have policy makers that will put the needs of the citizens we serve and the needs of our members over the needs of special interests that have dominated Connecticut's government for the last 14 years, and

**WHEREAS**, office holders who seek our support and then vote against the interests of working families break the trust of Union members and jeopardize the integrity of our Union's political programs, and

**WHEREAS**, in order protect our benefits and wages, and to achieve our goals, we need to elect pro-worker legislators and a pro-worker Governor in 2010, and

**WHEREAS** the political work of the Union relies on the dedication, commitment and skills of our members, and

**WHEREAS**, CSEA SEIU Local 2001's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and Political Action Committee (PAC) are the voice for our Local's members in electoral politics, and

**WHEREAS**, our success in candidate elections is determined by our ability to register our members to vote, educate our members about the candidate, and mobilize our members to volunteer, and

**WHEREAS**, our success is also determined by the amount our members contribute to our PAC, and

**WHEREAS**, our Union has traditionally had a strong voice in Connecticut politics, and

**WHEREAS**, the extreme challenges we are facing in the economic downturn demand that our Union have an even stronger voice, now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by this 67th Anniversary Convention of CSEA SEIU Local 2001: That CSEA SEIU Local 2001 support the rights of the unorganized to organize and help low wage workers raise their standard of living by passing the Employee Free Choice Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Union shall continue its efforts to expand healthcare to all of Connecticut's residents through granting small employers and others access to the State employee healthcare plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our Local as part of our new organizing program, continue to assist publicly funded workers outside of Connecticut for the purpose of helping them organize and build SEIU so that we can help reverse the decline of Union power in this country and protect the Union rights we hold in Connecticut.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we shall work diligently to hold members of Congress and the next national Administration accountable to pass the Employee Free Choice Act within the first 100 days of the 2009 legislative session.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we shall continue to build on our organizing successes here in Connecticut and continue to organize publicly funded workers in the school bus and child care industries to improve standards for workers in those industries.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CSEA SEIU Local 2001 will place a high degree of emphasis on holding Connecticut's elected officials accountable for their voting records when making endorsement recommendations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our Local shall work with candidates to demonstrate their willingness to partner with our Union on issues affecting working families, including standing with workers on organizing drives, contract campaigns, and fighting against cuts to our salaries, benefits, and the services we provide.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CSEA SEIU Local 2001 will work in concert with other Unions to recruit, train, and elect more Union active members and retirees to run for public office as well as to elect a Governor in 2010 that is committed to Connecticut's working families.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the political program of CSEA SEIU Local 2001 shall place more emphasis on developing the political leadership skills of members and staff as well as to educate our members early in the process about the records and policies of the candidates for Governor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Union's Executive Council establish aggressive targets for PAC fundraising in order to meet the challenges we will surely face in the next 2 years.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Executive Council implement a program to train and deploy member political organizers (MPOs) in the upcoming political fight-back campaigns and have 500 MPOs ready to work on the 2010 gubernatorial campaign.