



## **Resolution #3 – Leading the Way to Win Comprehensive Health Care Reform**

*Recommended by the SEIU Local 888 Executive Board and adopted at the SEIU Local 888 Membership Convention on October 13, 2012*

*Whereas:* The U.S. leads the world in health care spending and health care costs in Massachusetts are still 15 percent above the national average. In 2012, Massachusetts health care spending accounted for 54 percent of the state budget; and

*Whereas:* Unless health care costs are brought under control, an increasing number of individuals, families, businesses, and governments will be bankrupted. If we want to advance along the path to a more equitable and cost-effective health care system, we have no choice but to build on the achievements of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare; and

*Whereas:* During recent years, the burden of skyrocketing health insurance costs has shifted from employers to union members; yet shifting more costs onto the backs of workers does nothing to contain overall costs and is no solution at all; and

*Whereas:* Recent attacks on collective bargaining have diminished workers' ability to bargain over their health insurance benefits; and

*Whereas:* The state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) has followed the trend of simply shifting more costs to workers, including making its first ever mid-year plan design changes that dramatically increased insurance deductibles and co-pays; and

*Whereas:* Bargaining over health care has become the biggest impediment to reaching fair and equitable contract agreements for many Local 888 members and most other union members; and

*Whereas:* Medicare has proven to be more cost effective than private health insurance plans over the past four decades. Therefore

*Be it resolved that:* SEIU Local 888 will resist efforts to shift insurance costs to our members—and fight for contracts that protect our insurance benefits; and

*Be it further resolved that:* SEIU Local 888 will support reforms to take advantage of the market power of the national Medicare program as a model to contain health care costs and the best way to achieve a single high standard of health care for everyone in America.