

Resolution #18-17

RESOLUTION TO STOP THE CMS RULE, SUPPORT HOME CARE WORKERS FREEDOM TO PAY DUES BY PAYROLL DEDUCTION

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 home care workers, majority whom are female and people of color, are proudly represented by UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 and SEIU in California, doing lifesaving, compassionate work such as preparing meals, monitoring health and assisting with bathing, clothing and toileting needs, allowing our loved ones, seniors, and people with disabilities, to remain in their own homes with dignity and part of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, in an explicit attempt by the Trump administration and right-wing groups such as the Kock-backed State Policy Network and the Freedom Foundation to limit the participation of home care workers in our country's democratic process, on July 12, 2018, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal level agency that funds Medicaid home care programs, including California's In Home Supportive Services program which provide home care to seniors and people with disabilities, posted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that seeks to restrict home care workers who are independent providers from paying their union dues and benefits by payroll deduction; and

WHEREAS, despite these attacks on their union and people they serve, home care workers have emerged stronger than ever, winning overtime and sick day protections and restoring services for their clients by their selfless and heroic efforts to protect California's home care program through advocacy and political action to support meaningful and accessible care at a time when California needs an estimated additional 200,000 home care workers by 2020 to meet the growing needs of seniors, whose numbers are expected to double in the next two decades, and who will increasingly rely on home care workers to remain in their homes with dignity and independence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County condemns the CMS proposed rule to eliminate automatic payroll deduction as a blatant attempt to silence women workers and those in our lowest paid professions and recognizes that this proposed rule will drastically reduce access to quality home care services provided by the members of AFSCME and SEIU; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in supporting quality services for seniors and people with disabilities that respect their independence and choice to live at home, the Democratic Party of Orange County urges members and leaders to submit letters immediately to CMS expressing opposition to this rule change on behalf of workers, and our communities, and, in particular, on behalf of those community members who require home care to live full and meaningful lives.

Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County At its July 23, 2018 Central Committee Meeting