

Fighting for working families

'Change that Works'

Two months into the Obama administration a key part of SEIU's three-part plan to restore the American middle class has become law. Another part is now before Congress and the third is one of the president's top priorities.

President Obama signed the first part of the plan—the federal stimulus package—into law last month. Local 1000 members played a critical role in the success by contacting elected leaders through thousands of letters and phone calls, and SEIU was the nation's leading advocate pushing for more fiscal assistance for state and local governments.

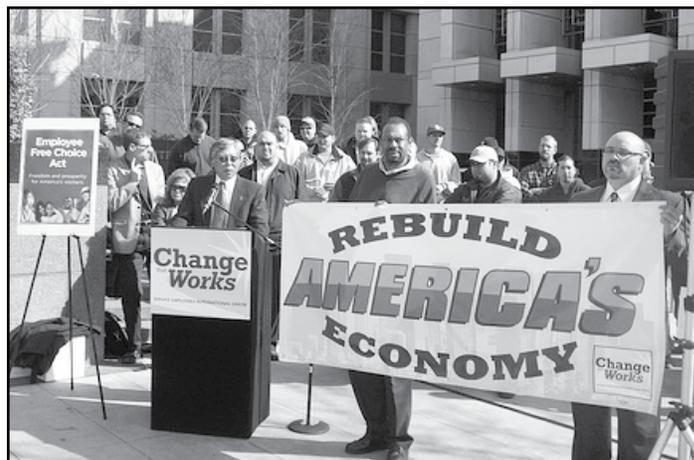
“We will find a way to rebuild the middle class and give workers some rights in this country again.”

**—Andy Stern
President, SEIU**

Now, hundreds of our members are supporting the remaining two parts of the campaign—universal health care and the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)—by writing letters, making phone calls and participating in rallies all over California.

“Part of maintaining Local 1000 members' benefits, wages and retirement is making certain that other workers have the same opportunities,” said Leora Hill, a Board of Equalization employee who is volunteering on SEIU's “Change that Works” campaign. “By supporting efforts to raise wages and benefits for all working people, we protect our own hard-won gains and preserve our children's future.”

Nearly 46 million Americans have no health insurance, which in turn pushes up premiums for the rest of us. Without universal care, Americans will continue to pay more for less-generous health coverage, fewer employees



Local 1000 members have joined a wide coalition to support Employee Free Choice Act, part of the “Change that Works” campaign.

will be covered and wages will continue to stagnate.

EFCA is proposed federal legislation making it easier to join labor unions. Introduced into both houses of Congress last week, EFCA would restore workers' freedom to form unions and bargain for better wages, health care and working conditions.

“We will find a way to rebuild the middle class and give workers some rights in this country again,” SEIU President Andy Stern said on MSNBC's Rachel Maddow show last week. To see the entire interview, go to seiu1000.org and click on “Political Action.”

The EFCA legislation is under a multi-million dollar attack by well-funded business lobbyists. But many Local 1000 members formerly worked in non-union jobs and know firsthand about worse protections and benefits.

“There was tremendous pressure in the computer industry against unions if we wanted to keep our jobs,” said Ed Hass, a staff services analyst from Elk Grove in a recent letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein. “Political contributions by wealthy corporations have widened the disparity between the middle class and the wealthy ... (EFCA) is our best chance to restore balance and fairness.”

Workers testify at government hearings

Members seek to improve state services

Local 1000 members testified at four separate legislative hearings in March to promote more effective and efficient ways to deliver state services to the people of California.

DDSD: Four members who work at the Disability Determination Services Department (DDSD) and a Local 1000 researcher joined frustrated applicants to testify at a federal hearing last Saturday in Chula Vista sponsored by U.S. Rep. Bob Filner (D-San Diego) chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. They testified about the endemic problems at DDSD and the long, frustrating delays experienced by injured veterans and other disabled Californians when

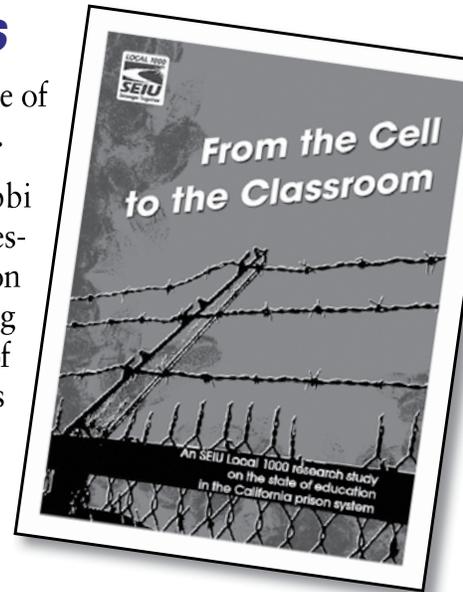
applying for disability benefits.

EDD: On March 4, Daniel Kennerk, an employment program representative at the Oakland Employment Development Department call center, testified about how many unemployed Californians are turned

down for benefits because of cumbersome regulations.

BOE: Employees Bobbi Smith and Edwin Perez testified to the Legislature on March 10 about ongoing mold problems at Board of Equalization headquarters in Sacramento and how mandatory unpaid personal leave days will affect tax collections.

CDCR: Vocational Instructor John Kern, of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, testified March 10 about ways to improve education and rehabilitation programs and reduce California's recidivism rate – the worst in the nation. Local 1000 also distributed copies of our new study "From the Cell to the Classroom." A Local 1000 researcher spent months visiting prisons and interviewing our members to determine which practices work best at rehabilitating prisoners.



Prison Education:

Local 1000 has distributed a white paper detailing how prison education can reduce recidivism.



John Kern testified about improving prison education in order to keep ex-convicts from committing new crimes after their release.

Members protected from furlough ruling

Although a judge last week upheld Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's effort to impose twice-monthly furloughs on 15,000 workers employed by California's elected officers, the ruling will have little effect on two thirds of them – because they are covered by our tentative agreement if it is ratified.

Under our tentative agreement

about 10,000 people employed by statewide officers (including the Board of Equalization) and represented by Local 1000 will not have to take unpaid furlough days twice a month, which is the equivalent to a temporary 9.2 percent pay cut. Instead, these workers will receive a temporary 4.6 percent cut and eight hours credit per month of

unpaid personal time. The pay cut expires in June of 2010, but the time off can be used until 2012.

The order by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Patrick Marlette upheld Schwarzenegger's position in a legal battle with state Comptroller John Chiang, who along with other statewide officers has refused to implement the furloughs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LOCAL 1000 TOLL FREE: (866) 471-SEIU (7348) or visit our website: www.seiu1000.org

SACRAMENTO (916) 554-1200 • **OAKLAND** (510) 452-4357 • **SAN DIEGO** (619) 624-0515

LOS ANGELES (323) 525-2970 • **RANCHO CUCAMONGA** (909) 466-5044 • **FRESNO** (559) 226-0756



Tentative Agreement info: local1000ratification.org

