

Item #19
6-12-2018

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Fresno County Hall of Records
2281 Tulare St, 2nd Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Greetings & Happy New Year:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share some perspective on the present SEIU IHSS workers. What I have come to learn is while there are many recipients of homecare, many are veterans. As an active advocate for veterans, I am concerned about the quality of care and the longevity of the care givers. Many Homecare providers are leaving the work force and seeking employment elsewhere. The common cause is wages.

The SEIU would like the County Supervisors to consider an increase of one dollar more than minimum wage "\$12" per hour for the IHSS caregivers. This increase in the wage is not considered "extra." What a one-dollar wage increase buys are necessities such as gasoline and food, or to pay increase power bills. I would surmise that well over 95% of these additional dollars in the family budgets of the IHSS worker will be spent locally generating new revenue to local businesses and additional tax revenues for the City of Fresno and Fresno County as well.

The veterans who utilize the IHSS system are only turning to this resource out of desperation, not convenience. The diagnosis from their VA physicians certifies that the veteran needs the care for chronic and long-term illnesses that would otherwise put the veteran in a nursing home.

The research delivered by UC Berkeley indicates that the investment in homecare has saved the state money while meeting the needs of a growing demand. I was surprised to see that Fresno County is responsible for only 17% of the IHSS workers wage; with the federal government and that State of California paying the vast majority of that wage.

Besides my duties with the annual Veterans Parade, Toys for Tots and organizing the yearly Marine Corps Ball; I am a business owner and completely understand budgets, the costs of operations and the like. Comparatively speaking, the IHSS care-givers are a value to the county and state.

I promised the membership of the SEIU that I would do everything that I can to support the "one dollar over minimum wage" effort.

At this stage in our veteran's lives, It's my belief, that there is no better way to honor our veterans than giving them the care they deserve. We need to pay these care-givers a decent wage that they can live on and support their families. The end result if we do not elect to increase their pay, they will continue to seek employment elsewhere leaving the veteran without the stability and level of care they have earned.

V/R



Daniel Payne

CEO Fresno Veterans Parade