

SEIU Local 888 Convention Resolution #1
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Improve Local Public Health Standards for Every Community!

Recommended by the SEIU Local 888 Executive Board and adopted by a vote of the membership at the SEIU Local 888 Biannual Convention on October 24, 2020

Whereas: The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the local public health system in Massachusetts is not adequately structured, staffed, or financed to meet large scale public health challenges; and

Whereas: Now is the time to invest in creating a stronger, more equitable local public health system that will provide essential protections to ALL Massachusetts residents -- regardless of their ZIP Code; and

Whereas: Our state's decentralized approach to delivering public health services is uneven and inefficient – and puts the entire state at risk. Many small towns, in particular, lack any public health staff and rely entirely on volunteer boards of health; and

Whereas: Massachusetts is one of the only states in the country without dedicated state funding to support local health departments; and

Whereas: SEIU Local 888 has joined [a coalition](#) to accelerate improvements in the Massachusetts local health system, so that it is better prepared to meet future challenges by:

- Ensuring minimum public health standards for every community,
- Increasing capacity and effectiveness by encouraging municipalities to share services,
- Creating a uniform data collection and reporting system, and
- Establishing a sustainable state funding mechanism to support local boards of health and health departments; and

Whereas: The goals of this coalition are based on the consensus findings and recommendation of the [Special Commission on Local and Regional Health](#).

Therefore Be It Resolved: That SEIU Local 888 calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the [Statewide Accelerated Public Health for Every Community Act](#) (SAPHE 2.0).