

# SEIU Kids First

## Strong Voice for Quality Child Care

### Q. Why is SEIU organizing family child care providers?

A. Child Care providers across the country are deciding to form a union with SEIU to protect quality child care. We want...

- All children to have access to high quality child care and early childhood education.
- Make sure working families can choose and afford the care that is right for them.
- Ensure adequate, reliable funding for quality care.
- Stabilize the workforce with higher rates, affordable health care, and more opportunities for training and career advancement.
- Gain an important voice for providers in decisions that affect them and the children they care for.
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### Q. Why should I join SEIU when I already belong to a child care association?

A. Seiu Kids first is working with several family child care associations and has Collaboration agreements with associations through out Minnesota. SEIU and Associations share similar goals; we both want to protect quality child care, give providers a voice to professionalize the child care industry and offer leadership opportunities for providers to participate in. *The difference is that providers who form a union with SEIU are able to negotiate a **legally binding contract with the state** that tackles issues that an associations can't, such as; Subsidy rates, Health insurance, and funding to early childhood education.*

### Q. What does unionizing mean to me?

A. Joining SEIU would mean taking steps toward gaining a voice in order to affect your working conditions. *When providers come together, we have the strength we need to win; increase in wages by raising the CCAP, gain access to health insurance, make improvements and changes to the federal*

*food program, have a seat and voice at every table when rules and regulations are being made.*

**Q. What are the benefits of unions?**

Family Child Care providers love their jobs and we know the valuable service they give to families and their communities. However, it is getting harder and harder for providers to keep their doors open with no benefits, no voice, and low wages. (There has **not been** an increase in CCAP in 8 years)

One way to attract and retain highly qualified providers is to make sure the profession is rewarding. (MN has lost 18% of providers since 2003). When providers are united and speak with one strong voice; they will be able to make the changes they want and need for their profession as child care providers. Once providers are unionized with SEIU Kids First; they will set their priorities and the direction to winning real improvements!

SEIU Family Child Care Provider members through out the US (over 100,000 strong) have already untied and seen great results; raises in CCAP up to 35%, access to health insurance, a legal contract with their states to Collective bargaining, they were able to stop budget cuts, and together they were able to win \$1 billion in new federal after school funding. This year in 2009, SEIU providers across the country are testifying and writing letters to their congress persons to make changes to the federal food program.

**States unionized with SEIU are;** Maryland, Maine, Rhode Island, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California, Oregon, Washington, and soon we will be adding **Minnesota!**