

Informing Retirees About Healthcare Options
Submitted by NYSUT RC 37-38

Committees Recommendation – Approval, as amended

Whereas, traditional Medicare, a benefit and entitlement for retirees 65 and older, covers only 80% of healthcare costs with the additional 20% of costs purchased by them or for them as has been the practice of New York City for its retired workforce; and

Whereas, decades of austerity politics has forced unions to negotiate in a concessionary climate, agreeing to increased premiums, co-pays and other restrictions for in-service members and drastic changes for retirees; and

Whereas, because the continuing escalating cost of private insurance is unsustainable, most unions, including NYSUT, endorsed a single payer system or Medicare for All to reduce costs and cover everyone;

Whereas, retirees' right to traditional Medicare is being bargained away as municipalities look for ways to reduce costs by increasing co-pays and deductibles or transferring retirees to other healthcare plans such as Medicare Advantage;

Therefore be it resolved, that NYSUT research, develop and disseminate materials to educate members about single payer plans at the national as well as local level; and be it further

Resolved, that NYSUT work with its affiliates to identify what organized labor requires of a high quality, single payer system; and be it further

Resolved, that NYSUT support the Medicare expansion proposed in President Biden's budget as a step toward universal coverage.

Resolved, that NYSUT should consider conducting a study of the Medicare Advantage plans available to NYSUT members in NYSUT locals.

Resolved, that NYSUT encourages their locals to inform retiree members when their local is considering changes to retiree health insurance.

Resolved, that NYSUT should consider providing locals with expert advice concerning health insurance.