

Resolution Title: Resolution on Pharmaceutical Companies
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, the protocol for patient care has shifted largely from in-hospital to out-patient care; and

WHEREAS, out-patient care fosters patients' dependency on prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the cost of prescription drugs has been rising on the average of 18% a year; and

WHEREAS, research on medicine and cures for diseases was once conducted by scientists and independent researchers with the support of private and federal grants; and

WHEREAS, most pharmaceutical research is now largely performed by the same for-profit companies that manufacture and market the drugs; and

WHEREAS, marketing to doctors and potential users increases the demand for expensive new prescription drugs even when their effectiveness for most patients is no better than existing, cheaper alternatives; and

WHEREAS, pharmaceutical companies spend massive amounts each year to lobby Congress to ensure the continuation of the high prices of drugs and the extension of patents for minor revisions of existing drugs or expanding their use; and

WHEREAS, the lobbying has resulted in Congress's unwillingness to regulate the price of drugs or to bargain with companies for lower prices for Medicare or permit drug re-importation from Canada or other reliable sources; and

WHEREAS, the lobbying, research, marketing, and manufacturing costs are passed on to the consumer, thus contributing to the high cost of drugs; and

WHEREAS, the escalating, run-away costs contribute to the impoverishment of retirees and the bankruptcy of union benefit funds which must increase co-pays or introduce exclusionary measures; and

WHEREAS, NYSUT has demonstrated support for fair drug pricing by including in its 2004 Legislative Program the *Fair Pricing for Prescription Drugs Act (S-3942/A-427)*; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT work with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the AFL-CIO to urge Congress to institute measures to control drug costs, including permitting the re-importation of drugs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge the authorities in Albany to negotiate a low-price buying plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and AFT pressure Congress and the Bush Administration to provide adequate funding that supports more independent research and insures drug efficacy and safety.