

Resolution Title: Resolution on Improving Health Insurance for Retirees
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, wide disparities in health insurance coverage for retirees exist across the State and nation; and

WHEREAS, NYSUT has fought successfully to prevent unilateral reductions in retiree health coverage; and

WHEREAS, the number of companies providing pre-65 retiree health coverage is declining; and

WHEREAS, because of political opposition, a rational national health insurance system has failed to materialize; and

WHEREAS, COBRA coverage is a too costly mechanism for many retirees; and

WHEREAS, almost one million disabled and elderly citizens have recently lost medical and prescription coverage because their HMOs have withdrawn from Medicare programs, while others threaten to withdraw; and

WHEREAS, the costs of prescription drugs is rising at a dramatic rate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue its efforts to obtain improvements in health coverage for retirees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT seek to strengthen current legislation in order to guarantee at least parity with in-service coverage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge AFT and AFL-CIO to study the issue of pre-65 retiree health coverage and work for federal programs that offer catastrophic coverage at reasonable costs to all employees in the private and public sectors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT Member Benefits continue to explore and offer low-cost insurance programs for retirees in order to mitigate the effects of poor health insurance coverage.