

1 **END THE GARNISHMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY TO PAY STUDENT-LOAN DEBT**

2 (submitted by Safety Net Working Group)

3
4
5 Whereas, private sector employers are eliminating defined pension plans
6 (17% of current employees have defined benefit pension plans, down from 60%)
7 and substituting, if anything, 401(k) plans to which only higher paid workers can
8 afford to contribute; and

9
10 Whereas, the median savings of households age 55-65 is just \$12,000; and

11
12 Whereas, without a pension plan or accumulated savings, American workers
13 are increasingly retiring to precarious circumstances, relying upon Social Security to
14 stave off poverty; and

15
16 Whereas, Social Security benefits have already been cut in that payments to
17 recipients are taxed, the full age of retirement raised to 66 (eventually 67) and
18 money is deducted for Medicare; and

19
20 Whereas, prior to retirement, many seniors had assumed debt in the form of
21 student loans in order to pay for their own education or that of a child or
22 grandchild; and

23
24 Whereas, student loans, among others, cannot be forgiven in bankruptcy, nor
25 can the higher interest rate at which they were financed be reduced; and

26
27 Whereas, in 2013, the federal government garnished \$150 million from the
28 monthly benefits of 36,000 seniors 65 and older, further cutting a hole in what is
29 supposed to be their safety net; and

30
31 Whereas, this number is expected to grow as more baby boomers retire;
32 therefore be it

33
34 **RESOLVED, that NYSUT and the AFT join the Alliance for Retired**
35 **American in calling on the Obama administration to end the practice of**
36 **garnishing Social Security to pay student-loan debt.**