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

(submitted by Safety Net Working Group)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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