

My name is Carl Aylman. I am a lifelong resident of NYC and I retired from The City University of New York in 2017, after 46 years of service to Bronx Community College, The City College and Baruch College, the latter of which is where I spent the last 39 years of my career.

At my age, as you may be able to imagine, I suffer from a number of medical issues. They are being managed by a team of physicians in various specialties who communicate with one another as to the best care for my illnesses. I do not want an insurance company to dictate to any of them as to what treatment options they are willing to cover and what they will not. That is a decision best left to medical professionals and not health insurance clerks with the goal of maximizing profits for private health insurance companies. For that reason, for me, and for many similarly situated senior citizens, Medicare and Senior Care is the best option.

I want to express my opposition to amending NYC Administrative Code §12-126 and urge you to vote against the changes. As a member of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Changing the administrative code that has been in effect since 1967 and has afforded active employees and retirees a guarantee of a choice of free health insurance plans. There is no need to amend the code to provide choice now. Amending the code will give the green light to Mayor Adams to violate the longstanding promise of premium free health care the city has made to retirees. It will impose premiums, and force the many retirees who cannot afford to pay thousands of dollars a year onto an inferior Medicare Advantage plan. If Medicare Advantage is so great, why does the Mayor feel a need to force retirees into it by eliminating all other options.

Additionally, amending the code has impacts far beyond just retirees – this change will open the door to cuts to active city worker's health insurance in future rounds of bargaining without addressing the underlying issue of rising health care costs.

There are better alternatives than the low hanging fruit of throwing retirees and future retirees and active employees under the bus. The Mayor, the City Council, the MLC and OMB can (a) Redirect funds that the City holds in reserve to keep the MLC Health Care Insurance Stabilization Fund

solvent for the next three years. It can prohibit the MLC from looting these funds to provide salary increases for active employees as it permitted in UFT negotiations in 2014; (b) Create a Commission charged with finding a path to control health care spending for both active and retirees, with hospital pricing as a priority or even consider that perhaps the City should self-insure and cut out the profit making insurance companies.; and (c) Develop a sustainable mechanism for funding and reducing health care costs for both active employees and retirees.

In the meantime, I ask you and the other members of the Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor to reject the proposal to amend the administrative code and vote NO! The 6 justices in the Courts have NOT mandated a change in the code. Mr. Scheinman did NOT order a change in the code; he merely made a recommendation that the City do away with all other options and just offer a Medicare Advantage Plan. The Mayor and the MLC wants you to do the dirty work of doing it. The Mayor has threatened to do it himself. If he thought he could have gotten away with it he would have done it already. By changing the Code, you provide him with the excuse he wants at your expense. Don't fall for this! VOTE NO ON AMENDING THE NYC ADMINISTRATIVE CODE §12-126!

Thank you,
Carl Aylman
Retiree, The City University of New York, 46 years of Service.