

Testimony on Defeating Changes to the NYC Administrative Code Section 12-126

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We elected a progressive City Council and a mayor who campaigned as a friend of the working class. Do you really want to support a change to the City Administrative Code that would lead to more degradation of benefits for ALL City Workers?

I was hired by the Brooklyn College psychology department in the fall of 1973. My first contract promised me healthcare upon retirement that would be Medicare plus the solid provision of GHI-level (or better) secondary insurance. Those decent benefits and our great students made up for the sub-par salaries and working conditions.

I've been retired for over 6 years and am extremely healthy and lucky. But I am getting less able to navigate complex internet interactions. With Medicare-DisAdvantage, more of our healthcare will require preauthorization and navigating complex internet interactions. Some of us will simply give up, not get services, and die. And the medical care we *do* obtain will be subpar: you can't give better services, save money and have massive management salaries and profits. Face it: Medicare DisAdvantage will provide less for less. You promised us one thing and are giving us a cheap imitation.

There *is* money in the Retiree Health Benefits Trust to last for at least two years, time enough to come up with a more equitable and honest plan. So why support this Code change? Do you like exorbitant management salaries in the health insurance industry or the massive fraud within Medicare Disadvantage plans? Are you afraid to tax the rich to cover our costs? Are you protecting the rich instead of NYC workers? I really don't think you want to do that.

Elected by your constituents to help workers, if you vote for changing 12-126, you will be doing the opposite. Please be *our* advocates *not* our enemies. While *all* the unions may not be opposed, the vast majority of union *retirees* will realize the true decline in their medical coverage and be very angry. Our numbers will grow every year and we vote!!

As an elder, I get lots of potential scams to steal my personal and financial information. You are perpetrating a *scam* on NYC retirees and future retirees. Stop Scamming us and start representing us. Elected, as you were, to take the City toward greater care and equity, why would you open Pandora's box and allow a precedent for changing the City Charter in order to cut the benefits of workers healthcare?

Thank you.