

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 3

STOP PRIVATIZING OUR MEDICARE SYSTEM

Whereas, since 1965, Medicare has been our national health care system for seniors and the disabled in the United States; and

Whereas, Medicare beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable populations served in health care, and need more, not fewer benefits and protections; and

Whereas, traditional Medicare holds sacred the relationship between Medicare beneficiaries and their chosen health care provider; and

Whereas, traditional Medicare, is a public good, and should not be privatized; and

Whereas, Wall Street has for decades tried and failed to privatize our Social Security system; and

Whereas, the prospect of Wall Street getting a piece of what is projected to be \$1.6 trillion of annual Medicare spending by 2028 has led to a rush to buy-up Accountable Care Organizations for managing Medicare services; and

Whereas, the Trump administration opened the door to the complete privatization of Medicare through a Direct Contracting pilot program allowing

1 private equity firms, insurance companies, and corporate health businesses to
2 directly contract to provide Medicare services; and

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4 Whereas, the Biden administration ended the Direct Contracting pilot and
5 rebranded it as the ACO REACH (Accountable Care Organization Realizing
6 Equity, Access, and Community Health) pilot to begin in January of 2023; and

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8 Whereas, public health advocates across the country see little difference
9 between ACO REACH and the Direct Contracting pilot, since both pilot
10 programs allow third party private entities to wedge themselves between
11 patients and their healthcare providers and to draw down the Medicare Trust
12 Fund by making huge profits in several ways, including weakening services for
13 Medicare beneficiaries; and

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15 Whereas, nothing in the ACO REACH pilot spells out a systemic way to address
16 the real inequities suffered by BIPOC individuals and BIPOC communities due to
17 historic under resourcing; and

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19 Whereas, addressing real equity issues can be done within the traditional
20 Medicare system.

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22 Therefore be it resolved, that the Retired Public Employees Council of
23 Washington continues to oppose the privatization of our Medicare system;

1 Be it further resolved, that the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington
2 calls for terminating the ACO REACH pilot program and closing the door on third
3 party entities profiting from our Medicare system;

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5 Be it further resolved, that the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington
6 sends a copy of this resolution to our Congressional delegation as well as to
7 President Biden and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier
8 Becerra.

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11 Submitted by Chapter 3 on July 28, 2022

12 Matt Groshong, President

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14 Committee Assignment: Resolutions Committee

15 Committee Recommendation: **No concurrence**

16 Convention Action: **Not Passed**
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