

Resolution Title: Resolution on Saving Medicare
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334

Whereas, because Medicare has served as a safety net for millions of senior citizens and people with disabilities by providing quality health care since its creation in 1965, it should be strengthened, not weakened, by the addition of prescription drug coverage at affordable rates; and

Whereas, the new Medicare Law fails to provide affordable adequate prescription drug coverage, and instead will result in high cost-sharing, gaps in coverage, increased risks and harm to existing retiree health plans, threats to state pharmaceutical assistance programs and ill effects for the most vulnerable beneficiaries such as those covered by Medicaid; and

Whereas, the Law fails to address the out-of-control drug prices by forbidding Medicare to negotiate lower prices with the industry, does not do enough to speed up the availability of generic drugs, and discourages re-importation of drugs; and

Whereas, the Law promotes privatization of Medicare by providing drug coverage through enrollment in private insurance plans, by giving even greater overpayments and special advantages to private plans, by introducing means-testing and by designing false competition to do away with regular Medicare and replace it with a “premium support” or voucher system – all resulting in unnecessary complications and difficulties that will hinder the ability of beneficiaries to access the drugs and other care they need; and

Whereas, the Law sets an unprecedented budgetary limit on the use of general tax revenues in order to force Medicare to reduce its guaranteed benefits and further increase costs to beneficiaries; therefore be it

Resolved, that AFT join with the AFL-CIO and the National ARA to work for repeal of the harmful provisions of the new Medicare Law, and support amendments to the new Medicare Law to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare that is affordable to all beneficiaries and that will shield them from the high costs of long-term healthcare, and that will protect existing state and other prescription drug programs.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2004 AFT Convention by the:

Delegate Assembly at a meeting held on May 27, 2004

Signed: _____
(President)

(Secretary)

Professional Staff Congress
Local or Retiree Council Name

Local 2334
AFT#