SEEKING LEGISLATION ALLOWING MEDICARE TO NEGOTIATE DRUG PRICES

WHEREAS, prescription drugs are a major factor in the rising cost of employer provided health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the cost of prescriptions has a major effect on disposable income of seniors and therefore on their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many seniors are forced to choose between medicine and food, sometimes forcing them to skip or reduce dosages resulting in deteriorating health and leading to increased health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the VA already exists as a successful model for negotiating drug prices; and

WHEREAS, the same drug by the same manufacturer can be purchased for significantly less in other countries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its national affiliates, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO continue to seek legislation which allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices.