

STATEMENT OF URGENT CONCERN

Adapted unanimously by the
Executive Committee
Retirees Chapter
Professional Staff Congress

New York City administrative code enshrines the right to health insurance for municipal employees. That right has been compromised by several recent agreements (2014 and 2018) between the City of New York and the Municipal Labor Committee, which negotiates our healthcare benefits

In the latest iteration of those negotiations, NYC has called for more savings. The savings are for the city, not municipal workers and retirees. The city has put out a request for proposals that would transfer 250,000 municipal retirees from traditional Medicare (with secondary insurance from the city) to a Medicare Advantage plan.

There is a contradiction here. Our union is a proponent of healthcare as a public good; of single payer. Moving to Medicare Advantage, which is privatized Medicare, is a retreat from Medicare to privatized healthcare and more problematic healthcare coverage.

The negotiations with the city have not been transparent. Certain paths (e.g., the city saving money by self-insuring) have not been explored. There are lots of questions about what the transition would look like, about what the new plan covers, about what happens when the Medicare Advantage contract between the city and vendor expires and about a whole host of other issues.

For these reasons, we call on the PSC to push for a moratorium on negotiations between the city and MLC; for a pause that allows for transparency, for consideration of other options and for the voices of municipal retirees to be heard.