



Adopted April 29, 2014

Resolution

Against Corporate Attacks on Post-Retirement Health Care

Whereas all retired workers in the United States deserve a secure, healthy, and dignified retirement; and

Whereas an essential component of a secure, healthy, and dignified retirement is reliable access to affordable and quality health care; and

Whereas the dream of a secure retirement with affordable health care continues to become less attainable for retired American workers as their standard of living continues to decline precipitously; and

Whereas corporate America continues to exploit bankruptcy law and engage in crisis bargaining to shirk their responsibilities to their retired workers, who have earned benefits through years of dedicated labor, and who have deferred a substantial portion of their pay over the years of their employment into pension and post-retirement health care programs and Medicare; and

Whereas retired workers are increasingly dependent solely on Medicare for their health care as a direct result of corporations defaulting on their obligations to provide post-retirement health care; and

Whereas Medicare itself is under attack, most recently and notably in the budget proposal put forward by House Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan, which would move Medicare towards privatization and do nothing to contain rising health costs; and

Whereas corporate profits and CEO pay continue to rise disproportionately as the global race to the bottom continues, and whereas the average CEO earned 42 times as much as the average worker in 1970 and today earns 354 times the average worker; and

Whereas health care costs in America continue to rise, with fifty-eight percent of Americans foregoing or delaying medical care in the past year; and

Whereas effective control of skyrocketing health care costs is essential to reversing the corporate trend toward attacking post-retirement health care.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans calls upon American and multinational corporations in the United States to cease their attack on post-retirement health care in the name of corporate profits, to live up to their obligations to retired workers, and to cease their support for politicians and legislation that strips retired workers of dignity and security; and

Be it further resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans encourages corporations to instead use their considerable influence to support programs and legislation that expands health care for all.