

RESOLUTION TO STOP PRIVATIZING OUR MEDICARE SYSTEM

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

Whereas, seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations served in health care, who need more, not fewer benefits and protections; and

Whereas, traditional Medicare, as a public good, holds sacred the relationship between seniors and their chosen health care provider; 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 the projected \$ 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 private equity firms, insurance companies, and corporate health businesses to directly contract for Medicare services; and

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

Whereas, public health advocates across the country see little difference between ACO REACH and the Direct Contracting pilot, both pilot programs allowing third party private entities to wedge

themselves between seniors and their health care providers and to make huge profits , while weakening health care benefits for vulnerable seniors and drawing down the Medicare trust Fund; and

Whereas, nothing in the ACO REACH pilot spells out a systemic way to address the real inequities suffered by BIPOC individuals and BIPOC communities due to historic under resourcing and that addressing real equity issues can be done within the traditional Medicare system; now therefore be it

Resolved, that 40th LD Democrats goes on record endorsing stopping the privatization of our Medicare system by ending the ACO REACH pilot program and closing the door on third party entities in our Medicare system; and be it further

Resolved, that 40th LD Democrats sends a copy of this Resolution to our two US Senators and Congressional House members in their jurisdiction, as well as to President Biden and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra.

Resolved, that the 40th LD Democrats sign onto Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA) letter by using this link: [Sign the letter to Biden - Don't Privatize Medicare \(google.com\)](#) because PSARA has joined forces with Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and Physicians for a National Health Plan to end the ACO REACH Medicare pilot and put an end to the privatization of Medicare and have already gathered 508 community signatures and 84 organizational signatures.