



April 25, 2023

Dear Honorable Speaker Adams and NYC Council Members:

Please be advised that the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club (CRDC) had a special meeting on 4/24/23 and voted unanimously for the following resolution:

CRDC Resolution to support and advocate on behalf of the NYC retirees and the residents of Chelsea to preserve their earned healthcare benefits as outlined and promised in the statute in New York Administrative Code §12-126 when they were hired by the city of NY.

1. Whereas the CRDC has committed itself throughout these 65 years to promote and defend the rights of the Chelsea residents;
2. Whereas so many Chelsea constituents have served the city and are now enjoying the retirement benefits they earned;
3. Whereas the issue of healthcare is extremely important, and must be protected for the 250,000 NYC retirees, who worked for their health care rights;
4. Whereas there is proposed legislation waiting in the City Council, to get a number from Speaker Adams so it can move forward;
5. Whereas without a number on the proposed legislation, the issue will stall with no possibility of action;
6. Whereas the NYC retirees are being forced into a Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) with no alternative option provided;
7. Whereas this plan threatens access to the same level of health care, in that the retirees would be forced into a plan from the medical providers in the MAP, and would also be at MAP's whims for preauthorization decisions that may be based - at least in part - on Artificial Intelligence - instead of the medical decisions from their current regular medical providers;
8. Whereas the proposed plan would draw millions of dollars away from traditional Medicare into a privatized MAP;
9. Whereas the proposed plan sets a harmful precedent for the rest of the Nation. It is particularly ironic that this switch would be endorsed by a Democratic Mayor. Traditional Medicare came into being through a Democratic president and Congress, based on long-standing goals of the Democratic Party;
10. Whereas the NYC Retirees, have denounced in different platforms and forums, as well as in the 1/11/23 NYC Council marathon public hearing, that they have been subjected to unconscionable stress due to this violation of their earned healthcare benefits and now as of 4/9/23 being informed that they will be forced to switch into a privatized medical plan without any of their input or consultation; and therefore

Be it resolved, that the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club:

1. urges all of its elected officials to publicly support the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees' efforts supporting the proposed legislation. We are hereby requesting

the city maintain the original Medicare plan, provided at the time of hiring, and not force retirees into a private, profit-driven healthcare plan;

2. urges our elected officials to uphold the statute in New York Administrative Code §12-126. Consistent with these contractual and statutory obligations, the City has for several decades covered the out of pocket cost of the GHI Senior Care plan, which the majority of NYC Retirees have chosen, as well as other Medigap plans; and

3. urges the City Council to exercise leadership voting to approve the proposed legislation by the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees protecting retirees from this onerous switch. CRDC membership will consider the council member's position when determining which members to publicly support and work to get re-elected.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Suarez, President
Chelsea Reform Democratic Club

cc:

Hon. Council Member Christopher Marte
Hon. Council Member Carlina Rivera
Hon. Council Member Erik Bottcher
Hon. Council Member Keith Powers
Hon. Council Member Julie Menin
Hon. Council Member Gale Brewer
Hon. Council Member Shaun Abreu
Hon. Council Member Diana Ayala
Hon. Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan
Hon. Council Member Carmen de La Rosa
Hon. Council Member Council Member Eric Dinowitz
Hon. Council Member Kevin C. Riley
Hon. Council Member Marjorie Velásquez
Hon. Council Member Pierina Ana Sánchez
Hon. Council Member Oswald Feliz
Hon. Council Member Althea Stevens
Hon. Council Member Rafael Salamanca
Hon. Council Member Amanda Farias
Hon. Council Member Vickie Paladino
Hon. Council Member Sandra Ung
Hon. Council Member Francisco Moya
Hon. Council Member Tiffany Cabán
Hon. Council Member Linda Lee
Hon. Council Member James Gennaro
Hon. Council Member Shekar Krishnan
Hon. Council Member Julie Won
Hon. Council Member Nantasha Williams
Hon. Council Member Lyn Schulman
Hon. Council Member Robert Holden

Hon. Council Member Selena N. Brooks- Powers
Hon. Council Member Joann Ariola
Hon. Council Member Lincoln Restler
Hon. Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez
Hon. Council Member Crystal Hudson
Hon. Council Member Chi Osse
Hon. Council Member Sandy Nurse
Hon. Council Member Alexa Avilés
Hon. Council Member Shahana Hanif
Hon. Council Member RiTa Joseph
Hon. Council Member Darlene Mealy
Hon. Council Member Charles Barron
Hon. Council Member Justin Brannan
Hon. Council Member Council Member Kalman
Hon. Council Member Farah Louis
Hon. Council Member Mercedes Narcisse
Hon. Council Member Ari Kagan
Hon. Council Member Inna Vernikov
Hon. Council Member Kamillah Hanks
Hon. Council Member David Carr
Hon. Council Member Joseph Borelli
Hon. Mayor Eric Adams
Hon. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander
Hon. Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Hon. Senator Liz Krueger
Hon. Senator Gustavo Rivera
Hon. Assembly Member Tony Simone
Hon. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Hon. Senator Charles Schumer
Hon. Congress Member Jerry Nadler
Hon. Congress Member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortéz
Hon. Congress Member Ritchie Torres
Hon. Congress Member Nydia Velázquez
Hon. Governor Kathy Hochul
Chelsea Community News
Hell's Kitchen Democrats (HKDems)
Village Independent Democrats (VID)