

Resolution To Oppose the Chained Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Whereas; Social Security is an essential social program. It provides security not only for retired people, but for workers who are disabled and surviving children (when a working parent dies), and

Whereas; Social Security is a separate, self sustaining program (whose income and spending have no effect on the deficit), and

Whereas; The Consumer Price Index, which affects more than just Social Security, should honestly reflect the increased cost of living for people of all income levels. Assuming individuals will substitute something less expensive does not honestly measure the obviously lowered standard of living, and

Whereas; Individuals (especially women and minorities) who work minimum or low wage jobs barely earn enough to survive and therefore are unable to save for retirement making them totally reliant on Social Security, and

Whereas; Individuals with lower incomes, who spend over 85% of their income on basic necessities, are already falling rapidly behind with the present COLA calculations, and

Whereas; Annual increases in the Medicare premium are a set amount and COLA's are a percentage of income. For some individuals the percentage of their income is currently barely enough to pay Medicare premiums, and

Whereas; Shortfalls are compounded annually and will become more and more devastating with time. Disabled individuals (including our wounded veterans) and people who retire early (military, police, and others with physical positions) will be most negatively affected by these accumulated shortfalls, and

Whereas; Chained CPI will make the Social Security program totally irrelevant and open the door to its privatization and demise, which would condemn millions more to poverty, and

Whereas, it is not in the spirit or heart of the Democratic Party to allow the Social Security program to be gutted and we are the Party that has fought for the working class, the Party that started Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Welfare, initiated the war on poverty, and provided a variety of social programs to create a safety net for the less fortunate

Therefore be it resolved that the New York State Democratic Committee strongly disapproves of any attempts to curb an already insufficient CPI. This resolution will be sent to all our Senators and Congress persons as well as President Obama.

Therefore be it also resolved that we should go beyond this and find a fairer way to accept contributions to Medicare premiums or ensure that this is calculated in COLA increases. While we are ensuring health care for all, how can we force some individuals on Social Security to choose between food, heat and health insurance?

A Resource <http://www.ourfuture.org>

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