Resolution to Protect Medicare from Profit Making Entities

Whereas traditional Medicare, a public good, enacted in 1965 has been a national healthcare system for our most vulnerable populations of seniors and the disabled and does not insert a middleman between the beneficiary and their chosen health care provider; and

Whereas Wall Street has long sought to profit from public benefit programs and has rushed to buy up Accountable Care Organizations managing traditional Medicare services; and

Whereas, the Trump administration opened the door to the complete privatization of Medicare through a Direct Contracting program allowing private equity firms, insurance companies and corporate health businesses to directly contract to provide Medicare services which the Biden administration canceled and rebranded as the ACO REACH (Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access and Community Health) pilot program, to begin in January of 2023; and

Whereas public health advocates across the country see little difference between ASC REACH and the Direct Contraction pilot, since both pilot programs allow third party private entities to insert themselves between patients and their healthcare providers and to draw down the Medicare Trust Fund by making huge profits in several ways, including weakening services for beneficiaries; and

Whereas addressing the healthcare resource inequities suffered by BIPOC individuals and communities is best done within the traditional Medicare system overseen by a single entity; now

Therefore be it Resolved that the 23rd LD opposes privatization of our Medicare system, supports terminating the ACO REACH pilot program and closing the door on third party entities in our Medicare system; and

Therefore be it finally Resolved that a copy of this resolution will be sent to all our elected officials.

Approved by the 23rd LD on June 23, 2022

Shannon Turner, Vice Chair