

## **STOP THE PRIVATIZATION OF MEDICARE / ABOLISH ACO REACH**

*Passed by the Capital District Area Labor Federation (10/22/22); the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District (10/13/22); and the Albany County Central Federation of Labor (10/5/22)*

**WHEREAS**, For 57 years Medicare has been a vital part of the social safety net in this country, providing government-paid health care for millions of seniors and people with disabilities who might otherwise be reduced to poverty by medical bills, and

**WHEREAS**, Unlike private insurers, Medicare allows patients a wide choice of doctors they want and is able to keep its administrative costs to a minimum by paying providers directly, and

**WHEREAS**, Instead of filling the gaps in Medicare's coverage, the federal government has increasingly used Medicare funds to subsidize private insurance companies, significantly increasing its administrative costs, burdening doctors with extra paperwork, and providing new opportunities for fraudulent billing by private insurers, and

**WHEREAS**, In 2020 private insurers like Humana and United Health charged Medicare over \$12 billion paying for diagnoses that were not actually treated, leading Sen. Elizabeth Warren to charge that "Medicare is hemorrhaging money in scams and frauds," and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing privatization has created a \$350 billion market that Wall Street and private equity firms are rushing to exploit, undermining Medicare's solvency and putting crucial decisions about patient care in the hands of actuaries rather than doctors, and

**WHEREAS**, The DCE program was launched without Congressional approval, oversight, or even discussion, and

**WHEREAS**, Thus far the Biden administration has responded to public protests of DCE not by ending it but by making essentially cosmetic changes and rebranding it ACO/REACH, and

**WHEREAS**, it is within the power of the Biden administration to end the program with a stroke of a pen, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District calls upon its Congressional Representatives to urge President Biden to end the ACO/REACH program immediately.