

LOCAL UNION RESOLUTION



NO CUTS!
TO
RETIREMENT SECURITY

NO CUTS TO SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, or MEDICAID

WHEREAS, the United States is the only major country with an artificial debt “ceiling” that requires political action after Congress has already approved spending. The debt “ceiling” does not authorize any new spending commitments; it simply allows the government to finance existing spending obligations that previous Congresses and presidents of both parties have made in the past; and

WHEREAS, since 1960, Congress has raised the debt ceiling 78 separate times under majorities of both parties; and

WHEREAS, on January 19th, 2023, the U.S. officially reached that borrowing limit and Congress must act by this summer to prevent the United States from defaulting on its debts; and

WHEREAS, some members of Congress have stated that they will not agree to raise the debt “ceiling” without changes to Social Security, Medicare, and/or Medicaid programs such as cuts to benefits, raising the retirement age, or even privatization; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Social Security provided benefits to 65.8 million people, including hundreds of thousands of retired USW members; and

WHEREAS without Social Security the U.S. poverty rate for our seniors would be nearly 41 percent; instead it is just under 9 percent; and

WHEREAS, just the same as Social Security, Medicare should not face program cuts in an effort to increase the debt ceiling. Since 1965 the Medicare program provides comprehensive federal health insurance to over 63 million Americans over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, children and seniors are the vast majority of covered individuals in the state and federal program called Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, around 43 percent of all births in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid and nearly 37 million children receive Medicaid health coverage; and

WHEREAS, our union negotiates improved benefits and retirement savings for our members, but we will not leave those without our benefits behind; and

WHEREAS, current and future retirees, disabled workers, and our communities should not face reduced service or less income in retirement over decisions which have little relevance to major government programs like Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, our local urges Congress to quickly raise or eliminate the debt ceiling without any spending concessions that would cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid now and to protect these programs moving forward.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED BY USW LOCAL _____ ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

SIGNED: _____

