

Protect Social Security and Medicare, Support Healthcare for All

Whereas, President Obama's budget includes cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and

Whereas the AFL-CIO has called these "wrong" and "indefensible," and 90% of all Americans oppose any cuts to Social Security, and

Whereas, Reps. Alan Grayson (D-Fl.) and Mark Takano (D-CA) have been circulating a letter asking all members of Congress to sign a pledge that unequivocally states that, "We will vote against any and every cut to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security benefits—including raising the retirement age or cutting the cost of living adjustments that our constituents earned and need," and

Whereas, at WPEC's 2012 convention we joined many other labor bodies in supporting HR 676, John Conyers' bill for "Enhanced Medicare for All" that would implement healthcare for all US residents, and

Whereas, Scott Walker's Administration is attacking our health insurance in different ways including (1) raising required employee premium contributions in a regressive way that hits lowest paid state workers most, (2) directing state work to LTEs and temps to avoid paying health insurance for state workers, (3) stopping employee use of vacation to cover sick days (as at DHS), interfering with our sick leave conversion benefit and (4) promoting a suspect wellness data collection effort that appears to be preparatory to charge discriminatory prices for health insurance to state employees, and

Whereas, Scott Walker's action to block Medicaid expansion is pure evil and denies many Wisconsinites needed healthcare that may enable more sickness and death among our neighbors, and

Whereas, the Healthy Wisconsin bill was dropped in the Wisconsin legislature a few years ago and no further serious attempts to enact healthcare for all have even been discussed publicly in our state since then, therefore be it

Resolved, WPEC will urge its Congressional representatives to sign on to the Grayson-Takano letter as soon as possible and take other actions to protect Social Security and Medicare, reaffirm our commitment to healthcare for all, and pressure our state legislators to reopen discussion on this issue as a matter of the utmost urgency.

Whereas, nearly 4 in 10 US workers do not have paid sick leave at all for themselves, and millions more do not have sick leave to allow them to care for sick children, and

Whereas, 75% of Americans support paid sick leave, and legislation and local ordinances mandating paid sick leave have been enacted recently in Connecticut, San Francisco, Washington DC, and Portland Oregon, and

Whereas, the voters of Milwaukee voted overwhelmingly to enact paid sick leave but their will was blocked by anti-worker courts, and

Whereas, when Gov. Scott Walker and the Wisconsin legislature trampled on our rights in 2011 by forbidding local ordinances for sick leave, they used an ALEC model bill to do this, undermining democracy and the will of the people, and this poison is spreading to other states now including Florida, and

Whereas, the National Paid Sick Days Coalition is a project of the National Partnership for Women & Families that includes 150 women's, civil rights, health, faith-based, and labor organizations committed to passing a paid sick days standard, therefore be it

Resolved, that (1) WPEC will seek to be listed as a member of the National Paid Sick Days Coalition and (2) WPEC will promote to its members petitions to preserve sick leave at DHS and elsewhere where it is threatened and (3) WPEC will organize other local actions to preserve paid sick leave and to support mandates for paid sick leave for all those workers without it today.