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Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

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October 1, 2025

Honorable Julie Won
New York City Council Member
District 26
37-04 Queens Boulevard, Suite 205
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: CB2 HHSE Letter of Support – Int. No. 1096-2024

Dear Council Member Julie Won:

The Queens Community Board 2 (CB2) Health and Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Taskforce Committee (hereinafter "HHSE Committee") supports and advocates on behalf of the NYC retirees in urging the New York City Council to pass Int. No. 1096-2024, which will preserve retiree health care choices by mandating the City to offer Medicare-eligible City retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better than those available to City retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021. Of note, Int. No. 1096-2024 would not "impair the ability of any employee organization to negotiate the terms and conditions of employment for their employee members."

Notably, Int. No. 1096-2024 does not materially differ from Int. No. 1099-2023, which was the subject of a resolution presented to the full board at its December 17, 2023 meeting. At that meeting, the full board voted unanimously (with none opposed and no abstentions) to support a resolution exhorting the New York City Council to enact Int. No. 1099-2023, which would have amended the Administrative Code to protect NYC retirees' vested health insurance coverage and contributions. In keeping with the Board's previously held position, the HHSE endorses the current legislative measure that aims to preserve the health care choice of NYC retirees.

Council Member Won, so many of your constituents have served the City and now seek to enjoy the retirement benefits they earned. The issue of healthcare is extremely important and must be safeguarded for the NYC retirees who worked for their healthcare rights. In addition to noting "that city retirees earned and paid for their benefits and were made promises during their employment," Int. No. 1099-2024 recognizes that "it is critical to protect the health care choice of city retirees" so as "to ensure full access to health care and to minimize the need for emergency room and Medicaid expenditures." Many seniors are already struggling to make ends meet--a reality made more dire in the face of pending federal cuts and rising costs of living. They should not have to bear the burden of increased medical costs.

For the above-stated reasons, Queens Community Board 2's HHSE Committee strongly supports the passage of Int. No. 1096-2024 and urges you, Council Member Won, and your fellow NYC Council Members to enact this bill.

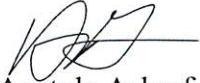
"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Lauren Springer
CB2 HHSE Chair



Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, CB 2



Amparo Abel-Bey
CB2 HHSE Vice-Chair



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager, Community Board 2

Cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate
Honorable Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate
Honorable Claire Valdez, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Anatole Ashraf, Chairperson, Community Board 2