



Donovan Richards
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Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

December 8, 2023

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

RE: **Intro 1099**

Dear Council Member Won:

On December 7, 2023, Community Board 2 held a public hearing concerning Intro 1099.

At that meeting with a quorum present a motion was made and seconded to send a letter of support for Intro 1099.

All were in favor of the motion with none opposed and no abstentions.

Please contact CB 2 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

DMK/mag
Attachment

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

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Honorable Juan Ardila, 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 Krishman, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, Community Board 2
Lauren Springer, Chair, Health & Human Services & Education Committee

Intro 1099



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Community Board 2 Resolution Supporting Int. 1099-2023

Dear Honorable Speaker Adams and NYC Council Members:

Queens Community Board 2 Resolution to support and advocate on behalf of the NYC Municipal Retirees and urging the New York City Council to pass Int. 1099-2023, 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.

1. Whereas so many constituents have served the City and are now enjoying the retirement benefits they earned;
2. Whereas the issue of healthcare is extremely important and must be protected for the 250,000 NYC retirees who worked for their healthcare rights;
3. Whereas Int. 1099-2023 is in the Civil Service and Labor Committee in the City Council and awaits a hearing so it can move forward in the Council;
4. Whereas the NYC retirees are being forced into a Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) with no alternative option provided;
5. Whereas this plan threatens retirees' access to the level of health care they have received in the past, in that retirees would be forced into a MAP with limited medical providers and would also be at the MAP's whims for preauthorization decisions that may be based - at least in part - on Artificial Intelligence - instead of the medical decisions from their current regular medical providers;
6. Whereas the proposed plan would draw millions of dollars away from traditional Medicare into a privatized MAP;
7. Whereas the proposed plan sets a harmful precedent for the rest of the Nation;
8. Whereas the NYC Retirees have testified in various forums, including at the January 11, 2023, NYC Council Civil Service and Labor Committee public hearing, that they have been subjected to unconscionable stress due to this violation of their earned healthcare benefits; NOW THEREFORE

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Be it resolved that Queens Community Board 2:

1. Urges all of its elected officials to publicly support the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees' efforts to enact Int. 1099-2023. We request that the City maintain the choice of the original Medicare plan and a Medigap plan provided at the time of employees' hiring, and not force retirees into a private, profit-driven healthcare plan;
2. Urges our elected officials to uphold the City's obligations to its retirees, including its obligations set forth in New York Administrative Code §12-126. Consistent with these obligations, the City has for several decades (since 1967) paid the out-of-pocket cost of the GHI Senior Care plan, a Medigap plan which the majority of NYC Retirees have chosen; and
3. Urges the New York City Council to exercise leadership by voting to enact Int. 1099-2023.