

“Be It Resolved...”

An Index and Compilation of Resolutions adopted by NYSRTA Delegates at Annual Meetings 1994-2015



Resolutions Committee 2014-Oct. 2015

CZ - Johnnie Jones

CWZ – John Roy

EZ – Jane Miller

LIZ – Fred Conway

NCZ – Douglas Dietrich

NEZ– Beverly Kie

NZ – Agnes B. Hudson

SEZ – Leon Harrold

SZ – Vincent Smith

WZ – Theresa E. Pope

Advisors - Mary Johnson & Charles Peszynski

Chair - Doris R. Kirsch

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SECTION A – NYS PENSIONS

A-1 COLA ENHANCEMENT

that the floor of the minimum pension be raised at least to \$20,000. Per year (1999)

that The NYSRTA continue to support and promote legislation to increase the cap from \$18,000. to \$25,000. (2001, 2003, 2006)

that The NYSRTA continue support and promote legislation to increase the maximum CPI to 5% for any one year (2003)

A-2 RETIRED WAR VETERANS

that NYSRTA not forget our war veteran retirees; and that NYSRTA support the three year credit military service bill which includes retired public employees (2000)

A-3 TIER 1

that NYSRTA support legislation which would reinstate retired teachers to Tier 1 to their original pension plan, and

that appropriate letters be sent to the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate, members of the proper committees, and to our local legislators (2001)

A-4 DELAYED JUSTICE FOR CAREER EDUCATORS

that NYSRTA exert its influence to assure that pension restitution be granted to career educators for those teaching years prior to 1959, thus bringing justice which has been delayed far too long (2003)

A-5 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

that NYSRTA be vigilant and take every possible action to prevent a change from Defined Benefit Plan to Defined Contribution Plan, which would represent privatization of our Defined Benefit Plan (2006)

that NYSRTA work closely with all other public employee groups to retain this benefit in the NYS Teacher and NYS Employee Retirement Systems (2006)

A-6 OPPOSITION OF NEW YORK STATE TAXATION OF RETIREE PENSIONS

That NYSRTA oppose the levy of any New York State income tax on the state retiree pensions (2010)

A-7 INCREASING COLA CAP TO REFLECT INFLATION

that NYSRTA support and promote legislation to increase the COLA Cap to account for the rate of inflation that has occurred since the inception of the COLA Cap. (2015)

SECTION B - SOCIAL SECURITY

B-1 SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS/FRAUD AND ABUSE IN MEDICARE

that NYSRTA call upon our elected representatives to ensure that the Social Security Trust Fund shall neither be used for budgetary deficit reduction purposes nor turned over to privatization, and

that NYSRTA call upon our elected representatives to ensure that the National Bipartisan Commission on the future of Medicare concern itself with the elimination of fraud and abuse in Medicare (1998, 1999)

that NYSRTA continue its efforts to prevent use *{for budget deficit programs}* of Social Security funds, and that privatization of Social Security not be allowed in any way as a means of acquiring funds from Social Security, and

that NYSRTA continue to support legislation to have funds used for budget deficit programs returned to the Social Security fund (2001)

B-2 PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

that NYSRTA strongly oppose the privatization of Social Security (2002)

B-3 ELDERLY CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

that NYSRTA continue its efforts to ensure that the Consumer Price Index (CPI-E) as devised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, be used to take the real expenses for seniors into account in the computation of the Annual Cost of Living Adjustments to Social Security (2000)

B-4 REMOVAL OF PENALTY ON SOCIAL SECURITY

that NYSRTA continue its efforts to ensure that the current tax on Social Security benefits be removed (2000)

SECTION C – HEALTH CARE

C-1 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR RETIREES

that NYSRTA promote and support a bill that would guarantee health insurance coverage for all present and future retirees, that is at least equivalent to that provided for active teachers in their respective districts, and (1994, 1995, 2001)

that when this is attained, health coverage should be made available to those who have lost their coverage (1995)

that uninsured retirees be provided the level of health insurance coverage in effect in the year prior to the time of their retirement, (2001)

that any enhancement of benefits offered to active educators would be passed on to retirees without a raise in cost to retirees, (2001)

that such health insurance coverage legislation be provided on a permanent basis (2001)

C-2 MINIMUM HOSPITAL STAY FOR WOMEN

that NYSRTA encourage its Representatives in Congress to support bills requiring a minimum stay for women undergoing mastectomies and protecting them from undergoing surgery on an outpatient basis ((1998, 1999, 2000)

C-3 PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

that NYSRTA continue its efforts to lower the cost of prescription drugs (2002)

that NYSRTA strongly support a prescription drug benefit program as part of the Medicare reforms (2002)

that NYSRTA support new legislation that would prevent abuses by the pharmaceutical industry and thus sped up generic versions of brand name drugs to market (2002)

that NYSRTA promote the repeal of the ban to purchase prescription drugs outside the United States (2004)

C-4 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

that NYSRTA support an increase in the funds allocated in the federal budget for Alzheimer's research, treatment and support care (2002)

C-5 LIFELINE TECHNOLOGY

that NYSRTA support legislation to provide lifeline technology to eligible persons, namely those who are 65 or older, those who are disabled, those who live alone either all or part of the time, by including lifeline technology in senior health care under Medicare (2003)

C-6 ORGAN AND/OR TISSUE DONOR RIGHTS

That New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc. seek legislation, with other interested organizations such as the New York Alliance for Donation, Inc. that will protect the wishes of the donor after death (2005)

C-7 HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE HOME

That NYSRTA urge the New York State Legislature to set into motion an intensive investigation into providing needed health care services in the home, regardless of the area in which seniors live, whether it be urban or rural. (2006)

C-8 PREVENT CHANGES TO RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFITS

That NYSRTA support legislation that guarantees medical benefits to retirees that are equal to or better than those that existed at the time of retirement. (2006)

That NYSRTA endorse and its members work together toward the approval of regulations or legislation to ensure that current retirees are grandfathered under the Supreme Court ruling and therefore will not be affected by any such EEOC regulations (2008).

C-9 CHANGE CURRENT PRESCRIPTION DRUG AUTHORIZATION

That efforts be made to give the Medicare program the authority to bargain for lower drug prices under Medicare Part D; and

That the program should be delegated necessary authority to provide for the safe and legal importation of drugs from other countries; and

That steps be implemented to promote greater access for generic drugs; and

That competition in the marketplace at the federal and state levels through a greater use of comparative effectiveness research and marketing reforms, shall be allowed. (2007)

C-10 FEDERAL REVIEW OF MEDICARE

That NYSRTA seeks a federal review of Medicare for an upgrade to meet the needs for retirees in the current and future eras and to change the provisions in it that might or unintentionally allow for age and civil discrimination for health care services. (2008)

C-11 LIMIT THE EMPOWERMENT OF HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

That New York State Retired Teachers' Association seek both federal and state legislation which would limit the empowerment of Health Maintenance Organizations and return the care of patients/clients and decisions for prescriptions to physicians. (2008)

C-12 IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORTED MEDICATIONS

That NYSRTA seeks Federal legislation which would mandate that the country of origin, and the origin of any components of the drugs, be listed on all prescription labels. (2008)

C-13 ELDER ABUSE

That NYSRTA stimulate legislation that will coordinate Social Services to work with the Department of Aging and Adult Protective Services to intervene, investigate, and train more ombudsmen and caretakers to use services available to prevent abuses of the elderly, and

That NYSRTA use its leadership through its affiliates and other vital community linkages to raise the awareness of the seriousness of elder abuse, and

Be it further resolved, that NYSRTA support legislation to address this problem of abuse in the elderly population . (2009)

C-14 PROTECTION OF ELECTRONIC MEDICAL INFORMATION

That NYSRTA advocate that there be no law allowing electronic transfer of medical history until the following concerns are addressed:

1. Security: Must have a secure electronic program that is time limited, ensures total privacy to the patient and his/her family and is not stored in any clearing house or data banks.
2. Monitoring: Must have provisions for a continual monitoring, extensive training of personnel using electronic medical records, technical safeguards and assessment of the risks and vulnerabilities of any organization using electronic medical histories,

and that data collected won't lead to profiling by governmental agencies, courts and health care providers.

3. Data Disclosure: Must have legal permission that is signed by patient or his or her designated Healthcare Proxy. A written permission for such electronic communications and the limit on time for this electronic exchange must accompany the permission.
4. Security Hazard: Must have stronger federal and legal protection for patients' rights and privacy through maintaining and updating of security procedures and regulations. (2009)

C-15 MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS

that NYSRTA ask the New York State's federal legislators to introduce a bill to mandate Medicare and the supplementary insurance companies to cover all or the major part of the cost of hearing aids for the elderly every four years; and

that NYSRTA should contact other state and national retired teacher groups and other senior citizen groups for their support (2010)

C-16 MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS

that NYSRTA Legislative Action Committee should have legislators require: that the prescriptions being filled at local pharmacies be filled for the same three months as with the mail order houses; and

that the copayments should be the same scheduled nominal fee as that paid for mail order prescriptions filled for three months (2012)

C-17 FEDERAL MEDICARE PROGRAM

that NYSRTA support the continuation of the federal Medicare program to guarantee the availability of health care to our senior citizens without the imposition of a privatized voucher program or the creation of health savings accounts for all seniors; and

Be it further resolved, that no funding reduction be made to the current Medicare program. (2012)

C-18 IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICARE COVERAGE ACT

That NYSRTA support HR 1179 in the 113th Congress; and be it further resolved

That NYSRTA support any bill that will improve Medicare coverage for the cost of rehabilitation after hospitalization; and be it further resolved

That NYSRTA make a coordinated effort to educate our members about this matter (2103)

C-19 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVERTISING

That NYSRTA support legislative action that would prohibit pharmaceutical companies from advertising the sale of prescription drugs. (2013)

SECTION D – EDUCATIONAL POLICY

D-1 TENURE RESOLUTION

that NYSRTA show strong support for New York State tenure laws by communicating its concern to school boards, to the legislative leadership and other interested parties (1997)

D-2 INCREASED FEDERAL SPENDING

that NYSRTA endorses increased funding by the Federal Government to improve education in the public schools (2001)

D-3 SCHOOL VOUCHERS

that NYSRTA does not support legislation in any form or other name, which promotes school vouchers (2001)

D-4 HEAD START

that NYSRTA support all efforts present and future that will guarantee increased funding and expansion of the Head Start program at the *Federal* level (2005)

D-5 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

That NYSRTA urge the State Education Department to reinstate a more comprehensive Vocational Education program for high school students; and

That the curricula offered and the subsequent tests used in the program make it possible for students to acquire a Regents diploma in Vocational Education (2005)

D-6 TUITION REDUCTION

that (1) The New York State Retired Teachers' Association urge New York State lawmakers to reduce tuition for education students at SUNY schools who commit to teaching in NYS public schools for a period of 5 years, and

(2) that if the five years teaching commitment is not fulfilled, the tuition difference is to be repaid (2006)

D-7 INSURE THE MAINTENANCE & EXPANSION OF LITERACY NY, LITERACY VOLUNTEERS, ETC.

The NYSRTA unites with Literacy Volunteers and all interested groups to seek additional and continuous funding from the state government that will insure the maintenance and expansion of vital literacy programs. (2008)

D-8 TAX CREDIT AND TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

That NYSRTA does not support legislation which grants tax credits and tax deductions for non-public education. (2008)

D-9 ANTI-TESTING

that tests be recognized as tools, not goals, and that scores should not be used as a criteria attached to teacher evaluation, bonuses, and school closings; and

Be it further resolved, that NYSRTA calls on the Governor, State Commissioner of Education, and Board of Regents to re-examine public school accountability systems in this state, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment which do not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately effect the broad range of student learning, and are used to support students and improve schools; and

Be it further resolved, that NYSRTA calls on the U.S. congress and Administration to overhaul the elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently known as “No Child Left Behind Act”, reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators. (2012)

D-10 ANTI-BULLYING

That the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association urges the New York State Legislature and all school districts to enforce the Dignity for All Students Act that went into effect on July 1, 2012. (2013)

D-11 RETURN TO PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE WELL-ROUNDED CITIZENS

That NYSRTA is opposed to this trend toward rigid and limited curricula; and be it further resolved

That NYSRTA (as well as its zones, units and members) make a coordinated effort to educate parents, school leaders and legislators, by personal contact or through the media, about this destructive trend. (2013)

D-12 FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

that NYSRTA support local and state-wide organizations which seek to gain equitable funding for all New York State schools. (2014)

D-13 FULL DISBURSEMENT OF ALL CFE FUNDING

That members and the leadership of NYSRTA urge the Legislature and the Governor to fully compensate public schools, in an equitable fashion, all monies promised them in the CFE settlement of 2005. (2014)

D-14 COMMON CORE

that NYSRTA disapprove of the Common Core as written and promulgated. (2015)

D-15 CHARTER SCHOOLS

that we do not support legislation in any form or name, which promotes public tax dollars to Charter Schools (2015)

D-16 S.O.S: SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

That NYSRTA support and rally against any efforts to destroy public school education. (2015)

D-17 UNITY TO SAVE NEW YORK'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

that we encourage retired educators across the state to reach out to their in-service former colleagues and work with them in their fight to save our public education system; and

Be it further resolved, that the leaders of the Zones of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association reach out to the leaders of the NYSUT Retiree Councils to find joint activities that they may do together in support of our in-service educators and the institution of public education; and

Be it further resolved, that the Officers of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association reach out to the Officers of NYSUT to plan joint activities that they may do together to support our in-service educators and the institution of public education. (2015)

D-18 TEACHING SAFE BEHAVIOR IN TEEN RELATIONSHIPS

that NYSRTA support the Teach Safe Relations Act which supports teaching safe relationship behavior in high school health classes; and

Be it further resolved that NYSRTA add its support to Senators Tim Kaine (D-Va) and Clair McCaskill (D-Mo) who have recently introduced the Teach Safe Relationship Act; and

Be it further resolved that NYSRTA support any bill that would result in the teaching of safe relationship behavior in high school. (2015)

SECTION E – PUBLIC POLICY

E-1 CONSUMER FRAUD/TELEMARKETERS

that the Executive Committee of The NYSRTA communicate with the NYS Attorney General urging his agency throughout the state to increase its campaign to prevent marketing frauds (1994)

that the President of The NYSRTA should, by letter, commend the NYS Attorney General for his aggressive actions on behalf of retirees against telemarket frauds, and urge him to continue his efforts in the enforcement of the new FTC Regulations against these telemarketing frauds (1996)

that the Editor of the *York State* continue the commendable publicity for the Anti-Scam Campaign, utilizing materials available from the Office of the NYS Attorney General and from AARP (1997)

that the president of The NYSRTA, by letter or personal contact, commend the Attorney General's Division for its excellent action program in Consumer Fraud during 1998. That the president also urge the new Attorney General to continue the same level of service to the NYS consumers in 1999 and during his term in office (1999)

E-2 CREDIT CARD FRAUD

that The NYSRTA support legislation that will make it mandatory for credit cards to have Photo ID for face to face purchases and to require that no more than the last five numbers of the account be printed on the receipts to prevent fraudulent usage (2002)

E-3 OPPOSITION TO A NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

that NYSRTA urge its members to vote "NO" on the referendum question of convening a constitutional convention; and

that this message be publicized through *York State*, zone and local newsletters and other appropriate means of communication (1996, 1997)

E-4 NYS LOTTERY PROFITS

that NYSRTA continue its efforts toward contacting legislators to introduce legislation that would mandate the profits from the NYS Lottery go directly to the NYS Public Schools. It is understood that these funds be allotted above and beyond the State's regular distribution. The lottery money should be used to improve educational standards, purchase needed equipment, improve the educational plant, enrich the curriculum and provide special services to students (1998)

that NYSRTA have its State Legislation committee work toward incrementally increasing the general state operating aid to school districts. This would make the NYS Lottery monies a true addition to the normal state aid package (2002)

E-5 HANDICAPPED NEEDS

that NYSRTA support legislation that will require all public facilities to be made handicapped accessible and equipped (2000)

E-6 ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ANIMAL ABUSE

that NYSRTA supports more stringent penalties and felony treatment for cruelty toward animals and wants a clear message sent to the perpetrators (2000)

E-7 IMPROVED STAR PROGRAM

that NYSRTA seek legislation that enhances the STAR program by treating other tax-deferred monies from 401K, 403B and 457 accounts in the same way it treats IRA monies (2004)

E-8 RURAL TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL AREAS

That NYSRTA support legislation that will offer incentives to private or public transportation companies or individuals to provide a broader service to these communities. (2007)

E-9 ADIRONDACK NORTHWAY CELL SERVICE

That NYSRTA support their efforts to provide this service on this stretch of the Northway. (2007)

E-10 CAP ON REAL PROPERTY TAXES

That The New York State Retired Teachers' Association strongly urge the NYS Legislature to pass any/all bills that would put a cap on real property taxes for persons 70 years of age or older. (2007)

E-11 MILEAGE ALLOWANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

That NYSRTA support the introduction of federal legislation to increase the IRS volunteer mileage to equal one half the annual allowance given for business mileage; and

Be it further resolved that NYSRTA lobby for a raise in the allowance each time an increase occurs for IRS business mileage allowances. (2008)

E-12 TAX EVASION

that NYSRTA work with legislators to assure that all employers and employees pay their state and federal taxes on labor, and

Be it further resolved, that NYSRTA work with legislators to discourage tax evasion by employers and employees (2009)

E-13 SUPPORT FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

that NYSRTA support the concept and continuing practice of collective bargaining as essential to the establishment and maintenance of a mutually agreeable relationship between employers and employees in both the public and private sectors; and

Be it further resolved, that NYSRTA Continue to support efforts at the state and federal levels to maintain and improve collective bargaining. (2012)

E-14 ELDER POVERTY

That NYSRTA support efforts to oppose any increase in the co-pays/deductions for Medicare hospitalization, medical care and prescription drug coverage; and

Be it further resolved, that NYSRTA support legislation that will reduce elder poverty in both the nation and state (2014)

E-15 BULLYING AS A CRIME

That NYSRTA support future proposed legislation to make bullying a crime;

And be it further resolved, that NYSRTA support the improvement of interactive training for all employers and employees who handle bullying situations (2015)

SECTION F – ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

F-1 TERM LIMITATIONS

That Delegates at The NYSRTA Annual Meeting encourage the President and the State Executive Committee of NYSRTA to limit appointments of State Chairs and Committee members of our state organization to a period of service not to exceed nine years (1998)

F-2 COALITION FOR MUTUAL GOALS/RETIREE UNITY

that NYSRTA continue to seek out and work with those who share these goals, including but not limited to retiree leaders of the NYSUT, and

that NYSRTA president, Executive Committee, and legislative leaders initiate talks with the National Education Association, the National Retired Teachers' Association and the New York State United Teachers for the purpose of formulating legislative proposals which are agreeable to the members of these organizations (2003, 2006)

that the Executive committee of NYSRTA work toward extending the existing coalition and work together on mutual goals (2000)

F-3 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

that the NYSRTA Resolutions Committee be made responsible for annually reviewing all resolutions currently in effect that are at least six years old; and

be it further resolved, that recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for necessary amendments or rescission of currently active resolutions older than six years be made at each Annual Meeting. (2014)

F-4 YORK STATE ARTICLE

That in the event a submitted article requires a substantive change, that said article be returned to the original author for notification of the changes or withdrawal. (2014)