

## **Resolutions Committee Report *Gayla LePage, Chair***

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the four proposals that were submitted by three different zones. Two resolutions are recommended for consideration by the delegates at the 2017 Annual Meeting, and two are not recommended. All NYSRTA members should review these proposals and make their feelings about them known to their Zone President, Resolutions Chair, and Delegates. A complete listing of the resolutions that have already been adopted can be found on the NYSRTA website.

### **Resolution B-5-1: Social Security (North Central Zone)**

WHEREAS, wage earners pay 6.2% federal tax for Social Security and a 1.4% tax for Medicare while employed; and

WHEREAS, wage earners who retire pay ordinary federal tax on 50% of their Social Security benefit if filing a joint tax return and earning between \$32,000 and \$44,000 per year and 85% of their benefit if filing a joint tax return and earning more than \$44,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes double taxation, that is, individuals are taxed twice on the same earnings; and

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that we urge the NYSRTA to support the removal of all federal taxes on Social Security benefits.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1, 3, 5

**The Resolutions Committee voted “To Recommend”.**

---

### **Resolution E-16-2: Delegates to the Constitutional Convention (Western Zone)**

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the NYSRTA opposes the approval of the 2017 referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention the organization must be prepared in the event such a convention is called; and

WHEREAS, the delegate to said convention would be elected in November, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the process to become a delegate is very involved, requiring a substantial number of petition signatures, an effective campaign mechanism and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the process strongly favors individuals who are current office holders, political party leaders and insiders despite the fact that the delegate positions are technically open to everyone; and

WHEREAS, the decisions and recommendations made by the convention will be heavily impacted by the makeup of the delegates and their background and special interests; and

WHEREAS, a Constitutional Convention could result in recommended negative changes to many areas of concern (including but not limited to public education, collective bargaining rights, pensions, environment, social welfare) to the NYSRTA and its members; now

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that if the referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention is approved in November 2017, the NYSRTA initiate an immediate and active campaign in an effort to have individuals whose interests represent the objectives of this organization be elected as the delegates to the Constitutional Convention: and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA join like minded organizations to promote the election of delegates who will defend and protect our common interests; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA initiate and conduct a mechanism to inform the membership of the intricacies and importance of the delegate selection process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA, the zones and units encourage their members to become informed and active participants in the delegate selection process.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1,2, 3, 4 & 5*

**The Resolutions Committee voted “To Recommend”.**

---

### **Resolution D-16-1: A Resolution in Opposition of Vouchers, Charter Schools, and Other Schemes to Privatize our Public Education System (Northeastern Zone)**

WHEREAS, teachers, administrators, and other educational leaders have worked hard to create and maintain a public education system that helps people secure the tools they need to be successful in the global work environment of today; and

WHEREAS, as retired educators the members of the NYSRTA remain committed to that promise for all children regardless of their needs, zip code, ethnic background or their family wealth; and

WHEREAS, the current President and his Secretary of Education have an agenda (HR-610) to pursue programs and initiatives that are direct threat to the very existence of our Public-School system by defunding and privatizing our Public Education system for the benefit of those with private investment interests; and

WHEREAS, such schemes will minimize the public’s ability to be involved in public school policy by turning over control of the public schools to public/private charter schools where decisions will be made with profit motive competing with student needs; and

WHEREAS, research does show charter schools are not any better than their public-school counterpart in similar settings; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has proposed that Title funds combined in block grants to the stated (see HR-610). Such blocks would reduce New York's share of the current Title funding appropriations, and

WHEREAS, public school choice and vouchers can lead to school segregation and inequalities in funding for the schools with the greatest needs now,

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA oppose any attempts of the Trump Administration or Congress to privatize our American public schools in the form of vouchers, charters, title funding in block grants, and other tax exemptions or credits, and be it further

RESOLVED that the officers of the NYSRTA make every effort to join groups in a coalition that shares these concerns, and be it further

RESOLVED that the NYSRTA inform its members on these positions and contact our legislators with the same message.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4*

**The Resolutions Committee voted “ Not To Recommend”.**  
**(Covered under D15 and D16)**

---

### **Resolution B-4-1 and C-20-1: A Resolution in Support of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid Benefits (Northeastern Zone)**

WHEREAS, the appointment of Tom Price to head the Department of Health and Human Services underscores President Trump's support and plans to make major changes in Medicare and Medicaid; and,

WHEREAS, the changes suggested include reductions in Medicare and Medicaid as we know it today into a voucher and other private account schemes that would severely impact the availability and quality of health care for millions of Americans; and,

WHEREAS, plans to fund Medicaid through block grants to the individual states would have a severe impact on the budget of New York State and consequently the entire Medicaid program in our state; and

WHEREAS, the president many times promised to replace “Obamacare”, ACA, with something with better coverage for all and a much deeper premium cost; and,

WHEREAS, Secretary Price has shown little support for the Children's Health Insurance Program, which serves more than 8.1 million children (the program's funding ends Sept. 30, 2017); and,

WHEREAS, Social Security and the benefits provided is and has been a contract between Americans and their government to provide workers with a safety net and a small benefit at the time of retirement; and,

WHEREAS, President Trump repeated the campaign promise, "I will not make any cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid", many times during his campaign; now,

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA oppose any legislation that makes any cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NYSRTA opposes any replacement of the Affordable Care Act that diminishes benefits and premium assistance now provided; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Officers of the NYSRTA make every effort to join other coalitions that have similar values; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NYSTRA inform its members on these positions and contact our legislators with the same message.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1, 2, 3 & 5.*

**The Resolutions Committee voted "Not To Recommend".  
(covered in B-1, B-2, and C-17, is too specific to certain people as people transition in and out of government positions, limited in time frame because of the people named)**

Any proposal that is not recommended by the committee may be brought up for consideration to be resubmitted to the committee by a 2/3 approval of the delegates.

Lastly, the Resolutions Committee is required to review annually the adopted resolutions and recommend for rescission for those which are no longer legal, timely, relevant, or have been accomplished. This was done, and there are no recommendations for rescission at this time.