

International Longshore and Warehouse Union  
Thirty-fifth International Convention  
San Diego, California  
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C/U  
6/5/12 am

Resolution # R-6

OPPOSE THE ELIMINATION OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

WHEREAS: in 2011 the Republicans in Congress voted with near unanimity for the Paul Ryan plan to replace Medicare with a voucher system in which seniors would receive coupons for partial payment toward the same kind of inadequate insurance that they could not afford before Medicare was enacted; and

WHEREAS: later in 2011 Senator Ron Wyden joined Ryan in proposing a gradual elimination of Medicare through the attrition of healthier seniors dropping it in favor of cheaper private insurance; and

WHEREAS: those cheaper policies are designed for cherry-picking the healthy, thus making traditional Medicare solely responsible for paying for the care of the actual sick people thus severely undermining its long-term financial viability; and

WHEREAS: in March 2012 Senator Jim DeMint and other Republicans proposed the complete elimination of Medicare in 2014; and

WHEREAS: the 2012 budget passed by House Republicans completely eliminated Medicaid payments for nursing home care; and

WHEREAS: Deficit Commission member Senator Dick Durbin, a Democrat, has proposed that nothing is off the table in 2012 budget discussions, including severe cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security; and

WHEREAS: enacting any of these proposals amounts to financial ruin for or actual mass murder of some unknown number of our most vulnerable citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the ILWU finds that the defense of Medicare and Medicaid is a major campaign issue in 2012; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the ILWU refuses to support any Democrats who collude with the Republican goal of eliminating or privatizing Medicare or Medicaid; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the ILWU demands that Medicare and Medicaid be adequately funded until such time as single payer health insurance eliminates their need.

RPW/OPEIU 29—AFL-CIO