

# PROTECT, IMPROVE AND EXPAND SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

WHEREAS, our Social Security and Medicare programs form the backbone of retirement security for most Americans; and

WHEREAS, both programs are now facing serious attacks from conservative politicians who are determined to cut benefits in order to reduce federal spending as well as to benefit their corporate friends in the financial and pharmaceutical industries; and

WHEREAS, numerous polls show strong bipartisan support from voters for preserving and improving these programs, even if it means increasing the payroll taxes which fund them; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most devious strategy being proposed to cut these programs is the proposal by conservative politicians to create a bipartisan “Fiscal” Commission to recommend budget cuts to federal programs; and

WHEREAS, history has taught us that commissions of this sort are generally used by their proponents in an effort to create bipartisan political cover for cuts to Social Security often by proposing increases in eligibility age; and

WHEREAS, the fate of Social Security and Medicare will depend on the outcome of the 2024 elections; and

WHEREAS, every major Republican presidential candidate, including Donald Trump, is on record supporting Social Security cuts; and

WHEREAS, House Republicans have a plan to cut \$700 billion from Social Security and \$1 trillion from Medicare; and

WHEREAS, all of the 12 Republican Congressional representatives from California and five of the California Democratic Congressional reps have failed to sign the pledge circulated by Social Security Works stating that they would never vote for any legislation that would cut Social Security; and

WHEREAS, efforts to privatize Medicare by means of so-called Medicare “Advantage” and ACO-REACH schemes have continued un the administration of both parties; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that voters, especially older voters, are aware of the positions of candidates for federal office on Social Security and Medicare; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that CARA make every effort to ensure that all California candidates for federal office take a pledge to not cut Social Security or Medicare benefits; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that CARA continue to advocate for legislation to solve Social Security’s financing problem by scrapping or lifting the cap on taxable wages, to increase benefits and to eliminate offsets for people receiving pensions from “non-covered” employment (WEP and GPO ) and to achieve “Medicare for All”, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, hat CARA continue to oppose any schemes such as Medicare Advantage and ACO-REACH to privatize Medicare

**RESOLVED**, that CARA work to educate younger generations still active in the workforce of the role Social Security and Medicare will play in their retirement security and how the future viability of these programs can be assured, and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that CARA focus its 2024 advocacy efforts on increasing public awareness of the importance of Social Security and Medicare to the well-being of our society and economy and the need to protect, improve, and expand these essential programs.