



## Senior Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

**Whereas** seniors sixty years of age or older are among the most vulnerable citizens in our country with little opportunity to increase their income; and

**Whereas** an increase in the Cost-of-Living Adjustments in Social Security helps seniors cope with inflation, it may also cause tremendous hardship to many seniors by eliminating their eligibility for important programs, such as food stamps, housing subsidies and health care benefits on which they depend to provide food, shelter, and medical services; and

**Whereas** seniors living near or below the poverty level should be protected from being disqualified from entitlement programs when they are granted automatic Cost-of-Living Adjustments in their Social Security payments because they suffer from poverty even with the help of Social Security and other entitlement benefits.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans urges legislators at the local, state and national levels to protect seniors by adjusting the qualification criteria for entitlements to make them commensurate with the rise in the cost-of-living allowance in Social Security.





## Resolution on Federal Prescription Drug Regulatory Reforms

**Whereas** prescription drugs are an important factor in the cost and quality of health care; and

**Whereas** the Alliance for Retired Americans has been a strong voice in calling for limits on inappropriate marketing of drugs, holding down the costs of medications, and promoting unbiased, scientific research on their effectiveness through legal action and by supporting legislation and regulatory oversight; and

**Whereas** policies on prescription drugs are an important part of the national debate over health care reform.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that notwithstanding any agreements between the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry and federal officials, the Alliance for Retired Americans remains strongly committed to legislation allowing for the negotiation of prices between the federal government and drug makers for medicine provided under the Medicare Part D benefit; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports the following regulatory reforms:

- Payments by drug makers to physicians should be publicly reported to minimize the influence on prescribing decisions which erodes public trust in the medical profession; and
- Development of robust comparative effectiveness research with involvement of diverse stakeholders to find out what works best for different groups, including women, children, seniors, and minorities; and
- Implementation of prescriber education programs by academicians to minimize the influence of industry-sponsored drug sales people on doctors.



## Elder Economic Security Standard Index

**Whereas** legislators struggle to create effective policies to promote economic security and eradicate poverty because they do not have an accurate picture of what it really takes to make ends meet in today's economy; and

**Whereas** policymakers typically measure poverty and determine benefits using the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), which is a 1963 measure based solely on the cost of a bare-bones food diet;

and

**Whereas** without an accurate, regional picture of economic needs of adults age 65 or older, local Area Agencies on Aging cannot adequately plan for the needs of this growing population resulting in using inconsistent alternatives to assess poverty which is not only inefficient but is more costly and less effective.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports the use of the Elder Economic Security Standard Index, a new tool that more accurately quantifies the annual cost of meeting basic needs for housing, food, transportation, medical and other costs facing retired and older adults in each county, to provide a better measure of poverty, and to allow planning to meet the needs of America's growing aging population.