[ date ]

Mr/Ms. [ first and last name ]

New York City Council Member District [ number ]

[email] @council.nyc.gov

Re: Do Not Amend NYC Administrative Code, Section 12-126

Dear Council Member [ first and last name ]:

I am currently a NYC manager at the [ name of your agency ] and have [ number] years of service employed by The City of New York. I am a District [ your district number ] constituent of yours.

The Administration’s proposed amendment to Section 12-126 of the Administrative Code would undermine and compromise the current City health care benefits for all employees. Therefore, I am asking of you to not support nor sponsor the proposed amendment to Section 12-126; and to vote against the amendment when it is voted upon by the City Council. I am writing as a concerned civil service employee who expresses the same opinion as my colleagues who are many thousands of current employees and retirees of New York City who object to this Amendment.

How did this all get started? When the City and MLC first informed City retirees of its plan to switch all retirees to one Medicare Advantage Plan the City and MLC had been in negotiations with potential for-profit health insurance providers for many months. It was presented as a done deal to retired recipients of city health insurance. There was no input from retirees during the planning and selection process.

In 2021, the City was sued and lost its ability to move forward by the Court and is now appealing the decision. The case was won because Section 12-126 of the Administrative Code, which has existed for years, provided protection to retirees and to my future retirement.

I strongly oppose the Administration’s planned reductions in health coverage through the privatization of Medicare for retirees as the City seeks to weaken and erode the protections guaranteed for all City workers in the Administrative Code. The City has alternatives for managing rising health care costs instead of amending the Administrative Code. The Administration could use its purchasing power to challenge hospitals for exorbitant charges, address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, and audit current insurance providers.

The burden should not fall on current workers, retirees, and their dependents. Thus, I ask of you, as a dedicated civil service employee of New York City, to please not vote in favor of amending Section 12-126 of the Administrative Code of The City of New York.

Respectfully submitted,

[ your name ]

[ your email address ]

[ your home mailing address ]