

WHEREAS, the pharmaceutical industry creates life-saving cures that every day contribute to the public health of the American people; and,

WHEREAS, facilities used for the research, development and production of these life-saving cures must meet the highest standards in terms of technical specifications, cleanliness, and consistency; and,

WHEREAS, the construction, renovation and maintenance of facilities meeting these standards requires a workforce that is highly-trained, certified, professional and reliable; and,

WHEREAS, the most highly trained, certified, professional and reliable workers are members of America's building trades unions; and,

WHEREAS, the construction sector continues to suffer from higher than average unemployment rates, causing a disproportionate level of hardship among building trades union members; and,

WHEREAS, a new Battelle Technology Partnership Practice report states that in 2009 the biopharmaceutical sector supported a total of 3.2 million jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the same study estimates that every \$10 billion generated in revenues in the pharmaceutical industry results in 130,000 jobs; and,

WHEREAS, Medicare Part D – as it is currently configured – already benefits from privately negotiated rebates which are retained in the Medicare program, resulting in direct savings to Medicare participants in Taft-Hartley health and welfare programs; and,

WHEREAS, new proposals now being considered in Washington would impose additional, mandatory rebates on manufacturers that – unlike current provisions – would redirect any savings away from enrolled beneficiaries and into the Treasury, creating a shift of \$135 billion out of the program over the next ten years; and,

WHEREAS, the Battelle estimates indicate a proposal of this magnitude could cause the elimination of 130,000 to 260,000 jobs, many of them in the construction industry; and,

WHEREAS, such a reduction in revenues could affect patient care by creating a disincentive for research and innovation in the life sciences, potentially delaying the discovery of new, life-saving medicines; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the union and industry Trustees of the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) support Medicare Part D as a successful program that has created jobs, given more seniors access to affordable prescription medications, increased the prevention of chronic disease, and decreased long-term spending on the treatment of chronic disease; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PILMA opposes new rebates in the Medicare Part D program, as they would eliminate jobs, restrict seniors' access to affordable prescription medication, decrease efforts to prevent chronic disease, and increase long-term costs for chronic disease treatment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PILMA is particularly concerned about the negative impacts these new rebates could have on Taft-Hartley plans and their participants; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PILMA calls on the President and members of both parties in the United States Congress – including members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction – to protect direct, indirect and induced jobs supported by the biopharmaceutical industry, as well as the Medicare Part D program and the benefits it provides; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Trustees and other representatives of PILMA will communicate this position to the White House and key members of the House and Senate.

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The Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) is a partnership of unions and companies who work together on key national issues affecting organized labor and the biopharmaceutical industry. PILMA is focused on maintaining much-needed employment and industry leadership in the United States and recognizes that a vibrant biopharmaceutical sector providing innovative, affordable medicines is vital to the American people and the nation.