



Skilled Nursing Care for State Retirees

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and/or a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I ask that you include in the final budget a way to ensure that New York state retirees do not lose health care benefits when they are required to enroll in Medicare.

Specifically, there is pending legislation (S.4465/A.3896) that would allow for the state's insurance to continue as secondary insurance in order to provide the same level of skilled nursing care for state retirees and dependents who are now covered by Medicare.

In some instances, Medicare coverage represents a reduction in the number of days nursing care is provided, and also requires prior hospitalization for the benefit. This is a reduction in service for some state retirees who are allowed more days of skilled nursing and no prior hospitalization under the state's insurance plan. While PEF understands that the state requires Medicare enrollment for eligible state retirees to reduce the financial cost, we believe that no reduction in services should be allowed. This legislation would rectify the situation that some retirees have encountered. While it may only impact a few former state employees, it would correct a flaw in the system and provide them with the peace of mind that New York is still providing the health care to its retirees that they were promised. As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to include this legislation (S.4465/A.3896) as part of the final negotiated budget. Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
