



Reject increasing healthcare costs for retirees

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I am extremely concerned about the proposals in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget which once again target fixed income retirees. The Governor's plan to eliminate certain Medicare Part B reimbursements is unfair and bad policy. These proposals must be rejected when the final 2024-25 budget is negotiated.

The Governor's proposal would cease reimbursement for the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA) for higher income state retirees. Specifically, the state would discontinue the IRMAA Medicare Part B reimbursement retroactive to January 1, 2024. The new IRMAA burden will cost each affected retiree anywhere from \$694 to \$4,164 annually. With recent inflation and other costs rising, eliminating this program will have a real affect on many New Yorkers.

Eliminating these insurance reimbursements will greatly impact retirees who dedicated their lives to public service and are now on fixed incomes. PEF retirees do not have the flexibility to go out and earn extra money in response to budgetary whims. In addition, the program looks backward to the beginning of the year, meaning that there is no opportunity to plan or budget for the change.

As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to remove Part S of the Public Protection and General Government Article VII Budget Bill (S.8305/A.8805). This bad proposal will increase healthcare for state retirees and it should be rejected. Thank you for your time, attention. and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
