Remarks of Karen Peterson, Retired State Senator
At the October 4th Rally in Wilmington

I worked for the State for almost 42 years

and while the wages were never great –

we always knew that the benefits were.

But that's not true any more, if the State gets what it wants.

The state not only wants to take our Medicare and supplement plan,

they have lied to us about the new Medicare Advantage Plan.

Remember the Pension Office Newsletter we all got in July?

It said that the new plan will cost half as much as the current plan,

while providing the same benefits, same provider network,

and same out of pocket costs.

There are three lies in that sentence.

We will not get the same benefits,

we will not have the same provider network,

and we will not have the same out of pocket costs.

Just last week, the Pension Office finally released the contract

and the "Evidence of Coverage" document.

It limits our benefits, limits our provider network,

and says that we will have to pay a share of the costs to all providers –

up to and possibly more than $1,000 a year.

We pay <u>nothing</u> under our current plan.

Remember when the State told us that some procedures and
prescription drugs will require pre-authorization?

Well, that "some" turned out to be 2,030 pre-authorizations –
of which 1,690 are procedures that will require pre-authorization
and 340 are for prescription drugs.

Maybe the State thought that we wouldn't fight back –
But they were wrong.
We are literally fighting for our lives – and for our quality of life.
People have died waiting for Medicare Advantage plans
to approve life-saving medical procedures.

But that's how they make their money --
by denying and delaying medical treatment.

Did anybody actually believe that Medicare Advantage
could provide the same services for half the price? Of course not.

So, folks, we are fighting back the only way we can.
We're suing the state officials
who thought it was okay to balance the budget on our backs –
in a year when they had a $1.4 billion budget surplus.