

Time Critical Update for RISE Delaware Supporters Regarding SB 29!

Rally in Dover!

Dear RISE Supporters:

This will be a lengthy update covering multiple topics:

1. Come to Dover on Wednesday, 1/18/23, for a RISE rally and attendance at the SB 29 hearing In Legislative Hall!
2. Participate in the SB 29 committee hearing- here's how!
3. Write to your Senators regarding SB 29! Here's a sample letter!

We encourage you to share this information with your retiree contacts who may not be part of our RISE email list.

Part 1: Come to Dover on Wednesday, 1/18/23, for a RISE rally and attendance at the SB 29 hearing In Legislative Hall!

We have become aware that SB 29 may be the only action that the General Assembly plans to take this year regarding retiree healthcare. If there is no other further legislation passed, this almost guarantees a shift of retirees into Medicare Advantage. What this means is that as many RISE supporters as possible need to converge on Legislative Hall on Wednesday, January 18 for the 3:00 p.m. hearing. We are recommending that **you arrive 30 minutes early and gather on the side of Legislative Hall where people enter the building.** This is the *opposite side* of Legislative Hall from where we held the rally last fall.

We hate to ask people to come out in the cold weather, but it is imperative that we have a robust showing of RISE supporters for this hearing. We don't want to give the impression that we can be distracted from saving our Medicare Supplemental plan (a.k.a. Medicfill). We don't want cosmetic changes in committees, we want the Medical Supplemental plan put back in state code.

Parking will be more limited with the legislature in session so planning to carpool would be helpful. Small signs that are not attached to sticks or poles may be brought into Legislative Hall.

Part 2: Participate in the SB 29 committee hearing- here's how!

Here is the link to the Information about SB 29. You can scroll down the page to click on a link to see the text of the bill:

<https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=129938>

Here is the link to the meeting notice that includes a link to register to speak:

<https://legis.delaware.gov/MeetingNotice/32927>

We are asking people to register to speak at the meeting. You can always give your time to another speaker. We will probably try to lead off the RISE comments with Senator Peterson and Rep. Kowalko. The reason that you want to register is that you can always state that your points have been covered by another speaker but you may not be able to sign up after the meeting has begun.

Many thanks to RISE Observer Group Coordinator Tom Pledgie for compiling this list of possible talking points for comments:

1. Continue Medicfill. Appropriate review with Retiree participation CANNOT be done by May 1st.
2. There are significant problems with this bill. More time is needed to:
 - a. Study SEBC format/structure for changes
 - b. Determine how to continue Medicfill
 - c. How to set up full range of Medicare Supplemental program options
 - d. How to effectively monitor the SEBC
3. Get more Retiree representation on SEBC and Subcommittee(s)
4. How to stop any improper delays of services.
5. Effective oversight/accountability of the work of SEBC

Part 3: Write to your Senators regarding SB 29! Sample letter below!

Please send a letter to your State Senator by Wednesday pointing out that SB 29 is a distraction and not a solution. Mary Graham kindly provided the sample letter below.

You can find out who your state legislators are by going to Steve LePage's excellent legislation tracking tool here:

<https://retirees.inthefirststate.com>

Once you get the website, click on "Find My Delaware Legislator."

Many thanks for your attention to these important issues.

All the best,
Lisa Diller

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Dear Senator _____,

I understand that the Senate on Wednesday may be considering SB 29 relating to creation of yet more committee infrastructure seemingly tasked with considering State healthcare retiree.

For many reasons that I would be happy to discuss, SB 29 is not at all helpful to ensuring that State retirees get to maintain their promised traditional Medicare supplement plan or in protecting them against a switch to privatized Medicare Advantage, which increasingly has been shown to be a disaster - both for health care and the financial health of the Medicare trust fund to which we all contributed.

This bill is a distraction - like giving a wheel to a hamster. And as DuPont used to say to its employees, if it's not part of the solution, it's part of the problem. SB 29 is not part of any solution.

Please vote against this bill and, instead, look at serious, alternative bills. There are solutions to the Other Post-Employee Benefits (OPEB) problem already examined by existing committees that do not involve switching to Medicare Advantage.

Regards,
[NAME]
Your Constituent

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