

RISE Delaware Update: RISE official position on HB 281 and HB 282 and Rep. Baumbach's amendments

There has been some confusion regarding RISE Delaware's official position. The information below is the official position.

Thank you.

Lisa Diller, President
RISE Delaware

Sen. Karen Peterson (ret.) Legislative Liaison for RISE Delaware:

RISE Delaware supports HB 281/282 and does not oppose Rep. Baumbach's amendments. While we are not crazy about the amendments, we realize how the legislative process works; i.e., sometimes you have to make concessions to get the job done.

Amendment No. 1 to HB 281 would not take effect for 21 years. It would offer Medicare Advantage as an option only to new employees (hired after 1/1/25 who retire in twenty years) and only if the APA were followed (unlike the sneak effort in 2022). By then, Medicare Advantage will have either collapsed under its own weight – or will have replaced traditional Medicare entirely. A lot can happen in the next 21 years when it comes to Medicare Advantage plans, given that they are bankrupting the Medicare Trust Fund – and killing 10,000 people each year by delaying and denying necessary medical care to their members (according to the National Bureau of Economic Research).

We are, however, **strongly opposed to Amendment No. 2 to HB 281** (Rep. Yearick's amendment). Any retiree can already opt out of Medicare (during open enrollment) and get a free Medicare Advantage plan on the open market. This amendment is contrary to what the "Retiree Healthcare Benefits Advisory Subcommittee" recommended.

Amendment No. 1 to HB 282 makes sense – administratively. While we would prefer that the current Sec. of Human Resources not be in charge of our healthcare (because of her outrageous conduct over the past two years), we realize that a new administration will be in place a year from now. RISE Delaware particularly likes the provision in HB 282 that requires the Sec. of Human Resources to communicate with pensioners about benefits and changes, a duty she denied existed in the litigation.

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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