

RISE Delaware Update for August 25th

Hi All RISE supporters,

Great day yesterday. It's been a long time coming!

If you remember, the RHBAS is the committee created by the legislature in January that Rise was suspicious of - that it would be an Administration rubber stamp. But it proved yesterday it is not. At earlier meetings, we were happy they recommended codification of increased funding of the retirement benefit (signed into law by the Governor), and grandfathering of current retirees into Medicfill.

The RHBAS now recommended - after months of several RHBAS Members pushing for it and the Administration derailing the effort - **that Medicare Advantage be off the table (in the next RFP cycle)!** This is very consequential.

Rep Paul Baumbach led the effort and worked hard burning the midnight oil to ensure it would pass. We helped him in every way we could. Even though the motion is just "advisory," the recommendation must be important or the Administration would not have been fighting it so hard.

There was great turn out yesterday - from the Committee and from Rise supporters. Thank you!

From the concerns expressed by Rep. Baumbach and others, including Rise members, about the SEBC meeting on Monday, **we will really need to be on top of the SEBC in the next two months or more.** Its Administration leadership will continue to ignore the public and lead the SEBC astray again if we are asleep at the switch. So, we will need you in the coming weeks to pay attention.

But for now, let's celebrate the RHBAS victory! In addition to passage of the motion recommending to exclude MA from the next contract, the RHBAS also voted to recommend (over Administration opposition):

- For more transparency in the SEBC bid process for healthcare plans
- To make the next contract cycle be 3 years (not 2), with two 1-year extensions (not just 1)
- That changes to plan design, eligibility requirements, contributions and share percentages be limited to employees hired after 1/1/25

If you feel like it in the next day or two, **please send a personal email to the RHBAS members who worked so hard to get this done and give them some positive reinforcement.** (They obviously feel the weight of all our emails against MA!):

- **Lt. Gov Bethany Hall Long**, who led the committee in an open and inviting way, including to give us so much opportunity for public comment, and who made clear her opposition to MA;
- **Rep Paul Baumbach** for taking the bull by the horns

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and using his clout as an elected official and co-chair (along with countless hours of hard work offline) to achieve passage of today's several good motions despite extensive Administration lobbying and resistance with misguided arguments; and • Other RHBAS members who took their responsibilities seriously, played critical roles and voted to make it happen to take MA off the table: **Denise Allen, Wayne Emsley, Bill Oberle, Rep Ramone, Jeff Taschner, Mike Begatto, Sen Bryan Townsend, Rep Brian Pettyjohn and CIR Trinidad Navarro.**

Their email addresses can be found on the SEBC website. You can cut and paste this link into your browser to find them:

<https://dhr.delaware.gov/benefits/sebc/documents/subcommittee-members-retiree.pdf?ver=0302>

Thank you for all your support and work.

Mary Graham and Karen Peterson

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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Checks may be made payable to: RISE Delaware

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Public Meeting Calendar: State of Delaware

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