

Date _____

Dear Assembly Member _____,

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose a provision in the 2019-20 New York State Executive Budget that significantly alters the reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums for retirees covered by the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP).

This proposal amends the civil service law by freezing the reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums for all NYSHIP retirees with Medicare primary insurance, regardless of their income. The proposed change will also eliminate the reimbursement of the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) for certain retirees. This means that as the cost of Medicare Part B increases each year, retirees will have an additional out-of-pocket health care cost, which constitutes a diminution of their established health care benefits.

Retirees participating in NYSHIP are required by the state to enroll in Medicare Part B. Based on their income, some NYSHIP retirees are required to pay an additional income-related Part B premium called IRMAA, which has been reimbursed for the last seven years, while other retirees pay a standard premium, which is also reimbursed.

This change not only affects state retirees for whom Medicare is their primary insurance, but also retirees from school districts and local governments who participate in the NYSHIP Empire Plan.

In the past, similar language was proposed in the executive budget but was ultimately rejected by the Legislature. Since many retirees must live on a fixed income, I ask that you once again advocate for the removal of these provisions to freeze Medicare Part B premium reimbursement and eliminate the reimbursement of the IRMAA for certain retirees. Instead, I ask that you preserve the current reimbursement methodology for NYSHIP retirees.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I respectfully ask that you bring up these issues with your conference and your leadership. I look forward to a reply to my letter.

Sincerely,

Address:

Date _____

Dear Senator _____,

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Sincerely,

Address:

If we lose this battle, many will receive a reduced amount of ^{the} Medicare rebate for 2019 and the future rebates will be fixed at the \$135.50 per month level for all Empire Plan enrollees. You will have no one else to blame but yourself if you do nothing!

Thank you for taking a few minutes to make contact with your elected representatives.

Sincerely,

Simonne Harkavy

Janet Loehr

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AD150 Goodell, Andy, 716-664-7773, goodella@nyassembly.gov

This list corresponds to addresses we have on file for WIRTA Members.

In order to facilitate finding names and contact information for legislators not included on this list go to:

https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/.

Then select New York in the state box at the top.

All you need do is enter your zip code. The names of the state Senator and Assembly Member will appear. Clicking on the name of a senate or assembly member will then provide contact information for that person.