

RISE Delaware Update for 2-21-23

RISE Delaware Fundraising Round 2: Legal and Other Costs

Welcome everyone to Round Two of fundraising by RISE for the continued fight to stop Delaware from foisting Medicare Advantage (*aka* Medicare Disadvantage) on State retirees! The administration thought old folks were an easy target to push around. But we are motivated now more than ever to push back!

What we have accomplished so far with your help.

After the State failed to see the errors of its ways, RISE worked hard and quickly to develop a legal strategy to stop the State from putting in place Medicare Advantage for 2023. With your generous help, we raised a lot of money for the first litigation effort.

The first lawsuit, filed on September 25, 2022 on procedural grounds of the State's failure to follow open government and open meetings laws, led to our seeking - and winning on October 19 - a stay of implementation of Medicare Advantage. Had we not won that stay, Medicare Advantage would be a done deal right now. Looking back on it, it was an amazing feat short of a miracle given how the State hamstrung us. And we were able to do it only because of your financial and other support.

Now we need to move to the next stages.

The State is continuing its no-holds-barred effort to impose Medicare Advantage. We have been working since the stay on many fronts - media, legislative and outreach to State committees - to fight and stop for good Medicare Advantage from happening. We are committed with you to fighting this to the end!

Volunteers are putting in enormous amounts of time. But we want to be able to continue to fight in Court. To do that well, we have to pay top-notch litigation attorneys truly committed to and versed in our cause.

What we need.

First, we need money to defend against the State's appeal of the Superior Court's ruling that the State violated the law. The State should have to follow the open meetings and open government laws, but it won't if we don't protect our victory. At least if the State follows those laws, we will have an opportunity to be heard.

Second, we need a ready fund to pay for a potential second lawsuit on the merits that the State cannot renege on its promised benefit of a supplement to traditional Medicare. Legal and factual research is first needed even to file such a lawsuit. And we need to have money for retainers and ongoing fees. For a second lawsuit even to be a possibility, significant funds are needed.

Third, we need to fully pay the fees of our wonderful litigators for their achievement of our victory on October 19. And the litigators incurred fees even after October 19 to preserve the victory. The money raised to date has not been near enough for the outstanding bills of the litigation team.

Fourth, we need some small amount of money to pay for ongoing administrative costs for RISE, such as our website and email service.

Please feel free to send checks payable to RISE Delaware to:

RISE Delaware
P.O. Box 7262
Newark, DE 19714.

We are working on another GoFundMe fundraiser and hope to have it up and running soon.