

Rise Delaware Update for February 27, 2023

Myths vs. Facts regarding retiree healthcare

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to the RISE legal fund effort! We appreciate your support and the many nice notes that you include when we receive your checks!

If you have friends and colleagues who signed up for our updates, please remind them to add elisa.diller@risede.com to their contact list to make sure our updates end up in their inboxes and not in their spam or trash folders or out in cyberspace. Thanks for your help.

As the debate over retiree health benefits continues, some inaccurate information has been circulating. Since it's really important to keep the record straight, here are the facts about three of these points.

MYTH: The Retirement Benefit Study Committee (RBSC) recommended Medicare Advantage to the State Employee Benefits Committee (SEBC) last year, when the State first tried to put us on Medicare Advantage.

FACT: The RBSC's final report was not due until March 2022. The SEBC "jumped the gun" and selected Medicare Advantage on Feb. 28th. By the time the RBSC issued its final report in March, all they could say was that the SEBC had already selected Medicare Advantage. In an initial report submitted in November 2021, the RBSC had recommended further review of various options. That review never happened.

MYTH: The new Retirement Healthcare Benefits Advisory Subcommittee, recently established by SB29, will make recommendations to the SEBC.

FACT: The official synopsis of SB 29* describes a "Retiree Healthcare Benefits Advisory Subcommittee of the State Employee Benefits Committee, whose membership will include three state retirees and four members of the General Assembly, and whose charge includes holding public meetings and issuing recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by May 1, 2023" (emphasis added). Not to the SEBC.

*SB29.pdf: <https://www.risede.com/Updates/SB28.pdf>

MYTH: Healthcare options for retirees on the State plan can be discussed from scratch, as if no promises had ever been made to people who have already retired.

FACT: The State can and should honor its existing commitments by maintaining the Medicare supplement benefit promised to retirees on the State health care plan. Switching to Medicare Advantage is *not* fulfilling its commitment to us.

RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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