

RISE Delaware Update: Setting the Record Straight

Please see below the message from Sen. Karen Peterson, ret., RISE Legislative Liaison.

Lisa Diller
President, RISE Delaware

Dear RISE supporters:

Yesterday was spent putting out brushfires – from a fake "RISE Delaware" website (run by John Kowalko) to misinformation about what the RHBAS actually recommended. So, as we head into the House debate tomorrow, I'd like to take a few minutes to set the record straight.

First, the RHBAS never said "no Medicare Advantage ever" as some people are now claiming.

Recommendation #7 in their report states, "*Recommend that Delaware neither request nor consider a Medicare Advantage Plan in its Request for Proposal (RFP) for Medical Third-Party Administrator Services and/or Carrier for providing healthcare to its eligible retirees in the upcoming cycle.*"

So, those who are now ranting about Rep. Baumbach's bills being a "betrayal" and violating the RHBAS recommendations are dead wrong.

Second, John Kowalko has been screaming the loudest about Amendment No. 1 to HB 281 being a "betrayal." The irony of this is that Kowalko himself proposed a bill on 10/20/22 that would have allowed the State to offer a Medicare Advantage Plan to current retirees starting on January 1, 2023 and running through December 31, 2025. [If anybody would like to see Kowalko's bill, I would be happy to scan it and send it to you.] So, Kowalko is ranting about Rep. Baumbach's Amendment No. 1 that would allow the State to consider offering a Medicare Advantage Plan as an option twenty-one years from now (in 2045) – but his bill would have allowed it to start in 2023 and it would have applied to current retirees. For those of you who are following Kowalko's lead on this, you might want to re-think your position – given his hypocrisy on this issue.

Third, you have all received a copy of RISE Delaware's position on Rep. Baumbach's bills. RISE supports House Bills 281 and 282 – and does not oppose Rep. Baumbach's amendments which were necessary to get the bills out of the House Administration Committee.

If you have any questions, let me know.
Sen. Karen Peterson (ret.)
RISE Delaware Legislative Liaison

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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