

RISE Delaware™ Update: Great News from Leg Hall!

GREAT, GREAT NEWS FROM LEG HALL! MAY 23, 2024

We are one very big step closer to reaching our real-world goal of securing the State's Medicare Supplement benefit for its employees and retirees. **With today's vote in the House, the core bills HB281 (Medicare Supplement guarantee) and HB282 (SEBC transparency) (both as amended) have now passed unanimously both chambers of the General Assembly.**

This legislative victory is what the RISE litigation allowed to have happen: first, the interim Stay of Medicare Advantage by Judge Scott in October 19, 2022 stopped the immediate switch to Medicare Advantage, and then by our hard work through March 2024, the litigation kept the Stay in place long enough for the Highmark Medicare Advantage contract to be cancelled, for the next contract cycle to continue Medicfill, and for important legislative work to be done to try to secure the benefit for the future.

KUDOS to Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, Rep. Paul Baumbach and Sen. Bryan Townsend for their strong leadership in bringing about today's important victory through the RHBAS process and follow-up legislative hard work. And thank you to all the elected, union and retiree members who kept the RHBAS ship pointed in the right direction and on course.

And thank you to all of you who have supported RISE in working to achieve this victory by your participating in the political and committee processes, providing moral support, and contributing in the litigation as we continued to work through the committee and legislative angles.

We had RISE Board members and supporters in Leg Hall for the vote: Gloria James, Dale Swain, Mary Graham, Karen Peterson, Bob Hall, and Lisa Diller,

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE:

Now and in the future, all of us must stay vigilant.

1. First, we are very pleased with Rep. Baumbach's achievement of unanimous votes in favor of HB281 and HB282 to best help these bills become law. Please stay tuned and we will let you know if your help is needed again soon on these two bills.
2. Second, we really want the accompanying bills of Rep. Baumbach that we have discussed in earlier posts and emails to pass so as to best secure the Medicare Supplement for the long haul and prevent future whittling down of the benefit. Without proper funding from HB330 and without at least a start on appropriate cost cutting measures, the Medicare Supplement benefit will never be secure. REMEMBER, it was financial distress that resulted in the SEBC's adoption of Medicare Advantage in February 2022. **We do not want another go-round or litigation fight in the future due to financial pressures on the State!!**

Enjoy the moment and thank you again.

Elisa Diller, President, RISE Delaware
Karen Peterson, Legislative Liaison for RISE Delaware
Mary Graham, Legal Liaison for RISE Delaware

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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Elisa Diller, President

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Checks may be made payable to: RISE Delaware

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

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