

**RISE SUPPORTERS - Please email your State Senators NOW to support HS 2 to HB350** so Delaware can impact its out-of-control hospital charges. There will be a critical hearing on the bill on Tuesday at 4 pm in Dover before the Senate Executive Committee. The hospitals are sparing no expense to defeat this bill. We need people power to defeat their purse power.

**WHY YOU SHOULD CARE.** To make RISE's victory for Medicfill as secure as possible and as we recognized from the outset of our litigation, the State should reduce the excessive charges by hospitals. Without such a measure, insurance companies will continue to tout Medicare Advantage (or some other insurance-company or hospital-concocted scheme) which saves the State money at the expense of you and your pocket book. Lack of a firm financial footing for healthcare benefits will continue to make Retirees' Medicfill benefit vulnerable. We are expendable, remember.

We also want to support Senator Bryan Townsend, the Senate Sponsor, given his work to help retirees. Think of all the hospital lobbyists at Legislative Hall this week filling all the Senators' ears with their fear mongering and financial threats, including your Senator's.

**THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.** Excellent information-gathering work by the State Workers United ("SWU" consisting of Delaware State Troopers, DSEA, AFSCME Council 81 and Correctional Officers Assoc of DE) which shows that:

1. **Delawareans live in a hospital world of (unregulated) monopolies** determining our healthcare and what we, or our insurer, are charged. You know who benefits. Not you.
  - "The Delaware hospital market is dominated by a single hospital or system in each region." (SWU)
  - "[Delaware] Hospital acquisitions of physician practices have accelerated and increase costs to the system." (SWU) This is one way the current hospitals are furthering their (unregulated) monopolies – to your detriment.
1. **The unsurprising result of this unregulated monopoly market is excessive charges by hospitals and squeezing of doctors.**
  - "Hospital profit margins are high in Delaware compared to other states." "Median overall hospital [profit] margin in Delaware was 11% in 2017, compared to a national median of 3.6%." (SWU)
  - According to the Beckers Hospital Review and Kaiser Family Foundation, **Delaware ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation for health care costs per capita.** That is pretty incredible!
  - The actual people you trust to treat you (doctors) are being squeezed by the hospital monopolies. "Delaware physician prices averaged 115% of Medicare, ranking the lowest in the nation. [citing RAND reports]." (SWU) So if you feel rushed at your doctor's office, consider who is really to blame.

**WHAT DOES HS 2 FOR HB 350 DO?** It provides oversight and control of hospital costs in Delaware. It also creates transparency, which we have learned in our fight over the last 20 months is critical. As SWU describes it: the bill "creates the Diamond State Hospital Cost Review Board [to] address a well-documented problem with healthcare pricing in Delaware that continues to negatively impact the working families we represent and create long-term budget challenges for the State. To say that this legislation is long overdue would be an understatement." See below for information about how to contact your State Senator.

RISE Delaware™ Update: ACTION NEEDED NOW ON HS 2 TO HB 350

Thank you to SWU, as well as to the relentless Steven LePage who has done amazing research and outreach, for all your information gathering and other work to tackle out-of-control healthcare charges in Delaware

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

**HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR:**

If you are unsure who your state senator is, use the Find My Legislator tool on the general assembly website at this link: <https://legis.delaware.gov/Fin...>

Here are the email addresses for all current state senators:

[Brian.Pettyjohn@delaware.gov](mailto:Brian.Pettyjohn@delaware.gov)

[Bryan.Townsend@delaware.gov](mailto:Bryan.Townsend@delaware.gov)

[Bryant.Richardson@delaware.gov](mailto:Bryant.Richardson@delaware.gov)

[Darius.Brown@delaware.gov](mailto:Darius.Brown@delaware.gov)

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[Trey.Paradee@delaware.gov](mailto:Trey.Paradee@delaware.gov)

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**RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware**

Elisa Diller, President

*You received this email because you signed up for our messages.*

Please do not respond to this email message. Email: [risedelaware@gmail.com](mailto:risedelaware@gmail.com)

RISE Delaware™ Update: ACTION NEEDED NOW ON HS 2 TO HB 350

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rise-delaware-round-2-legal-and-other-costs>

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557317635829>

Our Web site: [www.risede.com](http://www.risede.com)

*Checks may be made payable to: RISE Delaware*

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

Public Meeting Calendar: State of Delaware

<https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/#/>

[Unsubscribe](#)

