

RISE Delaware Update for June 2, 2023

RISE Delaware Litigation Update from Mary Graham RISE Volunteer Legal Liaison:

Hi All,

Our interim litigation victory with the Court's October 19 Order staving off Medicare Advantage is still in place after seven months! This is a great success as the Administration was hoping to quickly overturn the decision and jump into the Highmark contract for Medicare Advantage in time for 2024. Pretty amazing that they actually told legislators they were going to win quickly on appeal and have Medicare Advantage ready to go.

We are still working on the litigation front to make sure the Administration's wish doesn't happen. The Administration has again appealed and there will be a briefing this summer. We intend to vigorously oppose their appeal of the October 19 ruling. The State just rejects the idea that public input into healthcare benefits is important. They know best - you should just take your Silver Sneakers and Free Meals after surgery (if the surgery is allowed) and go away happy.

But importantly, having the litigation victory still in place has allowed us all on another front to work to educate the healthcare committees (SEBC and RHBAS), legislators, and other elected officials about how disastrous Medicare Advantage is. And to shine the light on how the financial picture relating to our traditional Medicare benefit is far better than they represented.

The RHBAS is the independent committee created by the legislature in January with Rep. Paul Baumbach doing a great job leading the way. Its recommendation for significant codified enhanced funding that we encouraged is a good step in the right direction to protect our Medicare. And the RHBAS has made clear it does not like Medicare Advantage.

Thank you to all who have participated in that effort so far!! This work still needs our attention through at least October 1 - now is not the time to fall asleep at the wheel.

The State has filed their appeal brief and we will be filing our opposition brief in several weeks. Once our brief is filed, I can share with you our legal positions. We are totally committed to upholding Judge Scott's sound ruling that the State violated Delaware's open government and open meeting laws when it adopted Medicare Advantage under the radar.

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I hope you know that I am continuing to work tirelessly so we can save on what we have to pay the outside law firm doing such a great job. Thank you for all your support of the litigation effort.

Regards,
Mary

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RISE Delaware: Retirees Investing in Social Equity Delaware

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

Our Web site: 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/#/>

