



Retired Public Employees Association, Inc.

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Stanley Winter, President Michael B. Fitzgerald, Executive Director

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Mr. Gary Johnson
Director
Governor's Office of Employee Relations
Agency Building #2
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1250

Dear Director Johnson:

The Retired Public Employee Association (RPEA) has followed with interest the Administration's intent to increase health insurance premium costs for State employees, as contained in the tentative agreement with CSEA and as extended to M/C employees by Assembly Bill 8513. RPEA is concerned as to how the Administration intends to apply this to retirees. We assume that legal and historical precedent will apply in this situation. That is, while overall premium increases and coverage changes will apply to current retirees, premium contribution percentage rate changes will only be applied to future retirees.

Contribution rate changes have always been prospective. As the percentages of health insurance premium contributions have been raised, such percentage increases have not applied to those already retired. RPEA fully expects that this prior practice will continue in the present situation.

Due to the media coverage of contract negotiations involving active employees, RPEA is receiving many telephone calls and other correspondence from our almost 40,000 members who are apprehensive that Governor Cuomo intends to raise retiree health insurance contribution rates. RPEA recognizes that there are normal inflationary increased health insurance provider costs which have to be borne by New York State Health Insurance Plan (NYSHIP) enrollees. However, it is not clear whether the Administration intends somehow to try to apply the provisions of the CSEA contract to current retirees.

As the only organization whose sole purpose is to represent the interests of State public service retirees, we are requesting confirmation from the Administration that the historical precedent cited will continue to be followed. RPEA is available to meet with you and/or other members of the Administration to discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

Stanley Winter
President