

# Retired Public Employees Association

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John J. McPadden, *President* Edward C. Farrell, *Executive Director*

Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor, State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

September 24, 2018

Dear Governor Cuomo:

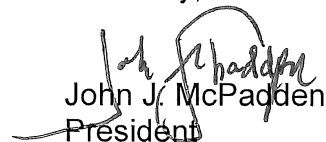
On behalf of the 250,000 retirees enrolled in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP), I am calling on you to rectify the current regulation whereby retirees receive a lower level of access to Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services when Medicare coverage is primary. We believe this lower level of access is based solely on age, and is discriminatory. Retirees pay the same premium as active enrollees, and therefore, should be entitled to the same level of service.

RPEA has previously raised this issue with both the Council on Health Insurance and the Department of Financial Services (DFS) (copies are attached). We are now at the one-year anniversary of our request to DFS, with no determination forthcoming.

NYSHIP saves money by having retirees enroll in Medicare upon reaching the age of 65. We fully understand and support that concept. Such enrollment, however, should not result in a diminution of benefits, which was not the intent when the State opted into the Medicare program.

I urge you to correct this inequity. RPEA remains available to assist in this endeavor, and I await your response.

Sincerely,

  
John J. McPadden  
President