



For Immediate Release
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Statement from Retired Public Employees Association in Response to Governor Cuomo’s Veto of S.8118

Bill would provide notification to retirees before changes to healthcare

Albany NY – New York’s 200,000 local public retirees are disappointed with Governor Cuomo’s decision to veto legislation designed to protect retirees from surprise changes to health insurance coverage by local municipalities.

The bill simply would require 30 days advance notice to their retirees before authorizing a change in health insurance plans, including associated costs of the amended plan to the retirees.

With the cost of health insurance rising constantly, it is essential that retirees and their families continue to be aware of the implications of proposed changes. This is especially true since retired public employees can be confronted after-the-fact with increased premium charges or co-pay amount that create a financial hardship on a population living on a fixed income. Allowing retirees to plan for changes to their health care is a small, but significant courtesy and they have earned the respect to receive notification.

“By vetoing this bill, Governor Cuomo has shown a complete disregard for New York State’s local retirees, their health and financial well-being,” said Jack McPadden, RPEA President. “New York State’s local public retirees deserve better!”

The Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) is a powerful advocate for current and future public service retirees. Founded in 1969, RPEA members include retirees and pre-retirees from New York State and local governments, school districts, public authorities, and their spouses. RPEA is a not-for-profit entity. As New York’s only public retirement advocacy agency, RPEA works exclusively on behalf of public service retirees and advocates for the protection and enhancement of their retirement benefits.