



# Retired Public Employees Association



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Diana M. Hinchcliff, *President*

Edward C. Farrell, *Executive Director*

*Representing the interests of 500,000 New York state and local government retirees*

November 12, 2021

Mr. Michael D. Israel  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Westchester Medical Center  
100 Woods Rd.  
Valhalla, NY 10595

Dear Mr. Israel:

The Retired Public Employees Association, representing the interests of nearly 500,000 state, local, and public benefit corporation retirees, opposes your plan to transfer Medicare-eligible retirees from traditional Medicare to a privately administered Medicare Advantage Plan.

Your retirees worked their entire career with the promise and expectation that when they retire, their existing benefits would be preserved.

However, Westchester Medical Center's proposal could increase expenses and reduce treatment options, since not all health providers accept Medicare Advantage Plans. Furthermore, Medicare Advantage Plans often require onerous pre-approval for needed medical services.

RPEA firmly believes that health benefits should not be diminished for those who have already retired.

Please uphold your promise to retirees and consider the unintended consequences of this proposal.

**We urge you to rescind this plan of action.**

Sincerely,

Edward C. Farrell  
Executive Director  
Retired Public Employees Association