Retired Public Employees Association

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

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Dear Senator/Assemblymember _____,

I am a constituent and a retired public employee enrolled in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP).

I am writing to thank the Legislature for omitting the Executive Budget proposal to eliminate New York State's reimbursement of Medicare IRMAA premiums in the one-house budget resolutions. As budget negotiations enter their final phase, I urge you to maintain total pressure to ensure this harmful cut does not return in the final enacted budget. Eliminating reimbursement shifts a growing and long-term cost onto retirees living on fixed incomes. Once the benefit is gone, retirees would pay the full surcharge year after year as Medicare premiums continue to rise.

Furthermore, I strongly urge you to ensure that the final state budget includes the critical protections established in the Senate's one-house bill S.9005B, specifically Part UU and Part TT. Ensuring equal access to skilled nursing facility coverage for Medicare-primary NYSHIP retirees through Part UU is essential to our care. Additionally, updating post-retirement earnings limits so retirees can work when needed up to the $50,000 cap proposed in Part TT will finally allow retirees to return to public service without severe financial penalties.

New York's retirees earned these benefits through decades of public service. Shifting rising health care costs onto retirees undermines affordability for older New Yorkers.

I respectfully ask you to stand with retirees by protecting IRMAA, securing skilled nursing benefits, and raising the earnings cap in the final state budget.

Sincerely,