

10-25-1990

SR-90-91-(22)175 (EC)

Marshall University

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Recommendation

SR-90-91-(22)175 (EC)

To endorse and adapt the attached proposed letters drafted by Staff Council regarding PEIA.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE: Kathryn Heizer DATE: 10/25/90

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

READ: A. B. Gould DATE: 11/1/90

COMMENTS:

SR-90-91-(22)175 (EC)

Appeal to Write

Dear fellow PEIA participant,

The precious improvements to our salaries in recent years stand to be lost to insurance premiums, perhaps as early as January 1, 1991.

During the August special legislative session on education, a law was passed which created a five-member finance oversight board for PEIA. Members of this new board were appointed by the Governor. They were given ominous powers--they can increase deductibles and co-payments, reduce coverage and levy additional premiums on us. Neither the Governor nor the Legislature is required to approve anything they may want to do. But only the Governor and/or Legislature can destroy this monster they created.

Monster? Consider that the new board is discussing increasing the cost of the program to participating agencies by 58% for single coverage and 46% for family, increasing premiums paid by retirees by 89% and imposing a "premium schedule". The Fiscal 1991 program reportedly contains and additional \$30 to \$35 million in benefits REDUCTIONS and INCREASES in employee contributions. We cannot allow this to happen. In fact, we cannot allow ANY additional premiums to be instituted because we can be reasonably sure they would never end. For example, health care costs increased an

average 25% last year so even if we receive the same health care now it would cost 25% more than it did a year ago. And be sure we would be expected to make up the difference somehow--in premium increases or benefit reductions.

Our legislators and the Governor have attempted to avoid all responsibility for our health insurance by creating this appointed board, chaired by Sally Richardson. But we must hold the Governor and Legislature responsible--the Legislature passed the bill and the Governor appointed the board.

It is the position of the Marshall University Classified Staff council that NO NEW PREMIUMS OR FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN BENEFITS be imposed on our current or retired employees. All other methods of cost containment must be reviewed and implemented. the Marshall University Staff Council, in conjunction with all other Staff Councils of the University of West Virginia system, are initiating a ~~ate~~ writing campaign. In the column to the right is a suggested outline of a letter which may be sent to the Governor, members of the Cabell-Wayne legislative delegation and the PEIA finance board. It is essential that we all take part. We will have ourselves to blame for further erosion of our health insurance benefits if we do not. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.

Sample Letter

It is my understanding that the newly created finance oversight board for PEIA has been given ominous powers, including but not limited to the power to increase deductibles and co-payments, reduce current coverage and levee additional premiums on PEIA participants without legislative consent or approval.

As a participant of PEIA, I object to any consideration of new premiums or further reductions in my health insurance benefits. I hold you accountable for solving this problem without further burdens on those of us who pay the taxes and do the work that permits the state to function.

Below you will find a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers for the Governor, PEIA Finance Oversight Board Members, Senators and House of Delegate Representatives for the Cabell-Wayne District and the surrounding area. Please use this list to let the legislature know how you feel about the PEIA Finance Oversight Board.

Governor:

Gaston Caperton
State of West Virginia
Office of the Governor
Charleston, WV 25305

Robert "Chuck" Chambers
420 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701
523-8419

Stephen Williams
P. O. Box 2783
Huntington, WV 25727
525-1721

Senators:

Keith Burdette
2400 Nash Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
422-5977

George Farley
1007 Division Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
428-0940

Homer Heck
Route 7, Box 301 Crescent Drive
Huntington, WV 25704
453-4043

Phyllis Given
5520 Shawnee Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
736-8021

Ned Jones
1615 6th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25703
736-4709

Richard Houvouras
1202 South Park Drive
Huntington, WV 25701
529-1444

Sondra Lucht
1013 Mill Race Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401
263-2756

James Morgan
P.O. Box 117
Huntington, WV 25706
523-6120

Earl Ray Tomblin
P.O. Box 116
Chapmanville, WV 25508
855-7168

Walter Rollins
P.O. Box 464
Kenova, WV 25530
453-2326

House of Delegates:
Kenneth Adkins
15 Wellwerth Gardens
Huntington, WV 25704
429-6022

Lyle Sattes
1018 Kanawha Blve. E., 12th Floor
Charleston, WV 25301
343-1252

*Mark off or add to as
needed.*

(PEIA Board Members)