

Good afternoon, I am Michael Bridgett and my career with the State of Maryland lasted 31 years. This does not include time credited for Military service.

- State Employment began in 1988
- 1992 I completed a Nurse Practitioner Program that I was selected by the State of Maryland to attend. At completion I had a 3-year contract to continue employment with the State of Maryland. This was an important program because the State had a difficult time recruiting Nurse Practitioners because the pay was not competitive.
- Just prior to being Vested with the State of Maryland the Pension system changed. I had to move into the "New System" which provides less money at the end of my service. The State of Maryland Notified all State Employees and we were able to make an informed decision. This is unlike the situation with our prescription Health Plan that was hidden away for seven plus years. No informed decision making there.
- 12/2019 I rushed to retire to try to salvage some form of the Health Care Prescription coverage which I was promised for years of working at a lesser salary.
- I could go into how much this rushed retirement cost me and the hardship it caused, however I want to discuss how financially irresponsible it is to take these earned benefits away.
- Medicare D does not come close to our current Plan. I work with this every day.
- For every state employee that ends up in a Long-term care facility due to lack of access to proper medications it will cost the Tax Payer \$93,000
- I am not even asking for a handout like the Medicaid Program. I am asking that you continue a program that I earn and contribute to. This is pennies spent for dollars saved.
- Benjamin Franklin saw the importance of investing in a Health Care System and believed in Public Health. An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a pound of cure. I am sure he would not understand why a preventative program that an employee earned and is still contributing money to would be eliminated at a time when the retiree needs it most.
- I completed my contract and held all ends of my deal with the State of Maryland. Please keep your end of the bargain.
- My two older children are profoundly deaf. My daughter Graduates with her Doctorial degree at the end of this semester. My son was the first deaf student to graduate from Full Sail University and he was the Valedictorian. I taught them that hard work and perseverance pays off. Please don't prove me wrong.

Thank You.