

February 27, 2024

Dear Senators

I started my career with the state of Maryland in 1980, at that time your policy and rules stated that after 5 years I was vested into the retiree Health Benefits Program which includes prescription drug coverage. Your rules and policies also stated that after 16 years of service that at retirement I would continue to have the same benefits as an active employee.

I retired in 2013 after 33 years of service to the state as a RN, certified Nurse Practitioner. I want everyone on this committee to understand that there is no Medicare part D plan no matter how much you pay that comes anywhere near my current state prescription plan that I earned by fulfilling my part of the rules and policies that were in place when I was hired. Currently my husband is on an infusion drug that cost us \$40 dollars a month in order to keep his immune system functioning, when researching Medicare part D policies, this drug is not in any formulary for any plan on the Medicare.Gov website, so come January 2025 that one drug will cost us hundreds of dollars per month.

That is just one example of Medicare part D plans not being anywhere near comparable to my current state plan. I understand that times change, however every one of you learned in Kindergarten that there are rules. Every state employee that was hired prior to July 2011 was given a set of rules by which we played by working for the State of Maryland and fulfilling our part of the rules and policies that were in place at the time of hire.

Please do the right thing and Grandfather those of us that were hired before July 2011 into the state prescription plan as that was "the Rules" when we were hired.

Phylis Reinard RN CRNP (Retired)