

Retired Public Employees Council Maintain Choice for Retirees on PEBB Health Insurance Fact Sheet



What is the change?

The House Supplemental Budget SHB 2376 (page 120, section b) includes a provision to examine the “feasibility of transferring retirees from a Medicare supplement plan to a group Medicare Advantage PPO”.

How would this impact Washington Retirees

While this is just a study, any move to replace the current plans with one Medicare Advantage plan would do the following:

1. Eliminate retiree’s choice
2. Support Privatization of Medicare
3. Eliminate state regulation of the plans

72% of Medicare eligible retirees for covered under the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) choose to be covered under non-Medicare Advantage plans, such as the Uniform Medical Plan. A Medicare Supplement plan acts as a secondary to Traditional Medicare, picking up the 20% that is not covered. Transferring retirees to Medicare Advantage PPO’s eliminates choice and would mean retirees would no longer be covered by Traditional Medicare and the Supplement. Instead, Medicare Advantage would take the place of both Traditional Medicare and the Supplement. In addition, this action would take regulation out of the hands of the state due to the fact that the Office of the Insurance Commissioner regulates all Medicare Supplement Plans, but is prohibited by federal law from regulating Medicare Advantage plans.

What is the request?

► **Please remove the Medicare privatization language from section 213 in the House budget bill.**

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Retirees deserve to have dignity in retirement.