



Retired Public Employees of Alaska, APEA/AFT

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Dear Retiree,

On January 1, 2014, the state of Alaska began implementing a long-range plan to reduce retiree health benefits.

It did so despite knowing these health benefits are protected from diminishment by the Alaska Constitution and a decision by the Alaska Supreme Court. Fighting these changes has been—and is—RPEA's number one priority! But we need your help.

The most obvious reductions were to the dental plan, which was downgraded to a bargain-basement commercial plan. The reduced plan has increased the out-of-pocket costs for many of us, by imposing frequency limits on cleanings and exams, reducing reimbursement rates, and severely penalizing those who see out-of-network dentists.

The Dental/Vision/Audio plan is 100% paid for by plan participant premiums—the state does not make any contributions. Yet, the state decided to make and implement reductions without any prior notice to or consultation with plan participants, which created large, unexpected out-of-pocket expenses for some retirees who were receiving ongoing treatment.

Without intervention there will continue to be additional significant reductions under the Dental/Vision/Audio plan and the retiree Medical plan.

Since its founding in 1997, RPEA has been in the forefront of protecting retiree benefits. We are the only retiree organization actively monitoring retiree benefits and regularly engaged in discussions with the state about these benefit reductions. Among other recent accomplishments, we were successful in compelling the state to restore several of the pre-2014 dental benefits and to reverse a reduction to an important COLA benefit for those requiring extended medical treatment outside the state of Alaska.

When necessary, we initiate legal action to reverse illegal benefit reductions.

In January 2016 RPEA filed a Declaratory Relief lawsuit asking the Court to rule that dental/vision/audio benefits are constitutionally protected and the state cannot unilaterally diminish these benefits. RPEA has requested the Court to order the state to restore these diminished benefits to previous levels.

RPEA's website, newsletters and member email notifications keep retirees up-to-date on their benefits and how to protect them. We have also successfully helped many individual retirees, providing assistance when benefits were unfairly denied -- ensuring proper processing of claims and helping file appeals when necessary. You can find more information about the lawsuit, testimonials, and other helpful information by going to the RPEA website at: <http://www.rpea.apea-aft.org/>.

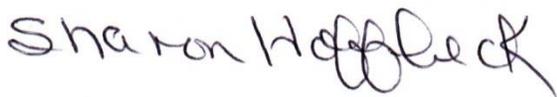
RPEA is the largest public employee retiree organization in Alaska, and the only one that works to protect the interests of all 68,000 PERS, TRS, JRS and other participating retirees and their dependents. We are a 100% volunteer organization. Our only source of funds to work on behalf of retirees is member dues and contributions. But only a fraction of retirees are members and contribute to help support the work that protects the rights and benefits of all retirees.

Numbers matter - both when RPEA speaks up to protect retiree interests and when legal or other action is necessary. The more members we have the more credibility and influence RPEA has and the more resources we have to take action. By becoming a member of RPEA, you can help us continue working to protect your interests.

To help protect your future, please become a member today. Be a part of our unified voice to protect your rights as a retired public employee of Alaska. We must work together to make our voices heard.

The best part is that you can become a member of RPEA for the very small cost of only \$35 a year — less than \$3 a month! Please complete and return the enclosed application along with a check payable to “RPEA”. Or you can join online at: rpea.apea-aft.org.

Sincerely,



Sharon Hoffbeck
President



Brad Owens
Executive Vice President