

Long Island Zone – **UPDATE 5/6/2019 – Will the Dominoes Start to Fall?**

The Bay Shore Retired Teachers' Association filed a Notice of Claim on March 29, 2019, preserving the right of any retiree or retirees to pursue challenging the Bay Shore School District action of changing health insurance coverage for retirees who are Medicare eligible **ONLY**, from NYSHIP to Aetna Medicare Advantage. This is considered, by the Retired Teachers Association of Bay Shore, a violation of the NY State Moratorium Law. Unfortunately, NYSUT 's Office of General Counsel did not deem there to be any violation of that law by the District. They considered the plan comparable, and did not offer to support the retired teachers of Bay Shore CSD.

This apparently successful unilateral action by the Bay Shore CSD may bode the beginning of similar actions undertaken by school districts in the Long Island Zone, and elsewhere. All retired educators are urged to monitor their school districts for similar actions being considered or taken. Retirees should be in contact with their local active teacher/administrator associations , and make sure the actives consider retirees when they negotiate and the contract(s) specify that. Retired educators have a very good track record for voting on school budgets. Retirees can also be a very powerful voice at school board meetings. It will take all of us to prevent the "Domino Effect".

Long Island Zone 2/19/2019

Beginning January 1, 2019, the retired teachers of Bay Shore CSD were impacted by a \$2 million cost savings measure to their health insurance. The District indiscriminately changed NYSHIP, the longtime health insurance carrier for the school district, to Aetna Health Insurance. This change was **only** done to retirees on Medicare. Active teachers and administration still remain under NYSHIP. A grievance was filed by the Bay Shore Teachers Association with the assistance of NYSUT, but has been tabled after the Regional NYSUT Office declared that the change in insurance coverage is "COMPARABLE" to the NYSHIP coverage, and does not impact the Moratorium Law. The Moratorium Law prohibits school districts from reducing the health insurance provided to retirees from existing levels, without implementing a corresponding diminution for the active employees. Marie Littlefair, a retired teacher at Bay Shore, has received numerous complaints from retirees that contend its comparability. These include: #1. Loss of NYSHIP prescription coverage to Medicare Part D has caused much undue hardship #2. Change of Network coverage including a major provider, Stony Brook University Hospital #3. Loss of coverage to Cancer Resource Services that was provided under NYSHIP, and others.