

Dear _____ of City Council District _____,

I am deeply concerned about the Mayor's latest attempt to extract health care savings from City workers by amending the City's Administrative Code section 12-126, which establishes the monthly HIP-HMO rate as the City's minimum contribution to the cost of health care for City employees, retirees and their dependents. I urge you to vote No on the proposed change.

The amendment would not only clear a path for the City to begin charging substantial premiums to retirees who opt to remain in their traditional Medicare program, SeniorCare; it would also open the door for the City to increase health insurance costs or reduce benefits for in-service employees.

Instead, the City should be going after the hospitals for exorbitant charges, addressing the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, and auditing current insurance providers, not balancing the budget on the backs of workers and their dependents. There are other ways to contain costs, and the City should seriously consider them. Some cities in the United States self-insure. Some use the huge purchasing power of their municipal workforce to engage in collective drug purchasing. Some deal much more aggressively with hospitals that charge exorbitant rates. New York City is doing none of the above.

For nearly 80 years, municipal workers have been able to rely on the City to meet its obligation to cover their health insurance costs in retirement, and SeniorCare has done it well, without premiums, co-pays, or prior authorizations. The proposed Administrative Code change breaks this compact. Further, it opens the door to weakening the quality and increasing the cost of active employee health insurance.

Please do the right thing and reject the proposed change to Administrative Code 12-126.

Sincerely, your constituent,

Signature (and Printed Name)

HOME ADDRESS

CITY(TOWN)

STATE

ZIP

DISTRICT COUNCIL #

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

FORMER RANK: _____