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**NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY**
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
MICHAELLE C. SOLAGES
22nd District

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIR
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, & Asian
Legislative Caucus
COMMITTEES
Health Libraries and Education
Technology
Racing and Wagering
Social Services

December 18, 2024

Dear Nassau Retirees Legal Fund Members and Nassau County Retirees,

I am writing to voice my support for the fight to protect the health benefits Nassau County retirees worked for, paid into, and were promised. As a member of the New York State Assembly, I do not have a say on the operations of Nassau County, but as a representative of our county, I will continue to advocate for what you are owed. Public service workers often sacrifice more lucrative salaries in the private sector to pursue careers that serve the public good. These workers are promised stability through health and pension benefits guaranteed during employment and in retirement. These promises must be kept sacred.

Nassau County and County Executive Blakeman must not walk away from these commitments and preserve your benefits as promised. Any attempt to weaken health benefits should be flatly rejected. Any collective bargaining negotiation that joins active employees and retirees together violates the law.

The benefits that were guaranteed to you at the time of retirement must remain in place. Negotiations with current CSEA union members cannot impact the benefits of retirees. I urge the County Legislature and County Executive Blakeman to rectify this situation and give you the full benefits you earned. As a co-sponsor of A7866B, which calls for the protection of the health insurance benefits of retirees of public employers and contributions of retirees of public employers, I will continue to support legislation in Albany to ensure retirees cannot be subjected to these benefit cuts and will advocate its swift passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michaelle Solages".

Honorable Michaelle C. Solages
New York State Assemblymember
Twenty-second Assembly District