



August 27, 2025

Dear Nassau County Retirees from CSEA,

I want to begin by acknowledging the outstanding work the Nassau Retirees Legal Fund is doing on behalf of retired CSEA members. Your dedication to protecting the hard-earned health benefits of retirees and their families is deeply appreciated. I am also grateful for the time your organization has taken to educate me about the critical issues at hand.

Please know that I stand firmly in support of your continued efforts. Once elected I will be committed to holding the County accountable for honoring the contractual obligations it made to its retirees.

The current administration's actions regarding retiree health benefits are deeply troubling. The new health plan would result in reduced coverage and increased out-of-pocket costs for retirees. It should not take a group of dedicated retirees on a fixed income to have to pay money out of their pockets to fight a legal battle in court simply to preserve the benefits they were promised. We need leadership in both the County Executive's office and the Legislature that will always defend the rights of Nassau County retirees.

I stand with you in affirming:

- Because the law prohibits unions from representing both retirees and active employees simultaneously, retirees could not have been included in the 2023 Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the union representing active employees;
- The CBA in effect at the time of your retirement, which furnishes County-paid health insurance that cannot be diminished, governs your rights in retirement; and
- The federal government defines a "benefit" as the healthcare items or services covered under a health insurance plan. Retirees are entitled to fully paid health insurance for life, with benefits at least as comprehensive as those offered by the NYSHI Empire Plan.

I encourage all elected officials and all candidates for office to stand with the Nassau Retirees Legal Fund and its members. You have earned these benefits through decades of service, and it is our duty to ensure they are protected.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Johnson
Candidate for
Nassau County Legislature District 17