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Dear Nassau County Retirees from CSEA,

Thank you for writing to me about our shared concern for retiree benefit coverage. I value you taking the time to reach out to me. Hearing from you helps me better represent the people and families of my district.

I am sorry to hear that Nassau County has moved to reduce your retirement benefits by switching your health insurance plan. I know that many of you took this job with the county many years ago with the understanding that you would be able to keep your health insurance plan long after your time working for the county was over. You have paid into this retirement program for decades, and I know that you have always expected that these programs and promises would be protected.

I completely support the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) workers—and organized labor more broadly—in their own fight to improve their pay and work conditions. That being said, it is unfair to enact changes to health insurance for those who have already retired. All Americans should be able to have security in the retirement and the benefits that they were promised, and that they have earned through a lifetime of hard work. To reduce these benefits in retirement is to break that promise.

It is my understanding that, according to the leadership of both the Nassau Retirees and the CSEA leadership, that the CSEA did not have the authority to negotiate on behalf of the retirees, and that they only asked for an agreement that applied to current workers and workers who retire in the future.

Thank you again for reaching out. I encourage you to subscribe for updates from my office by signing up for <u>my newsletter</u>, visiting <u>my website</u>, and following me on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and X.

It is a great honor and responsibility to serve as your member in the United States Congress. Please continue to reach out to me about the issues that matter to you most.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi Member of Congress

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