

My name is Marc Kagan. I am an angry constituent of Councilperson De La Rosa from Bennett Ave. I am an angry UFT retiree, angry that my former union is at the forefront of this effort to take away the medical benefits of myself and my wife, a double cancer survivor whose next CAT scan is tomorrow morning. Thankfully, her constant regime of testing is not subject to prior authorizations – and denials. She has enough on her mind without fighting with insurance companies.

And I am a grateful active member of the Professional Staff Congress–CUNY – grateful not only that the PSC voted against Medicare Advantage at the Municipal Labor Committee, but has gone the extra mile and more, setting forth a realistic alternative plan that the City Council can and should embrace.

I'll let others talk about the specifics of that plan, but I'd like to leave you with a reason to adopt it, based on a statistic that the PSC uncovered. In 2021, the City's total medical costs for actives, pre-Medicare retirees, and Medicare retirees was \$11,853,000,000 – almost \$12 billion. Of that just 5.7% - just a bit over \$500 million – was spent on Medicare retirees. In other words, these "savings" are a one-shot temporary fix to a systemic problem. What the PSC is proposing is that we look for a real sustainable solution rather than victimize retirees this year, new hires the next, people with high prescription costs or lots of dependents in a third, and so on.

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