

Meeting Date	Site	Meeting Location	Name	Employee Type	Organization, Agency or Employer	Subject of Concern	Comments
9/17/2015	DelTech Terry Campus	Dover	Jim Testerman	Retiree	DSEA-R	Pre-Fund Medical Benefits	I was probably the only one here that was around when this plan got lobbied; When I came to Delaware in 1963, we paid for our own Blue Cross for a state of pool but still paid for our own medical benefits. In early 1970's, I was on the DSC legislature committee & reached a lobby at that time and managed to get the medical benefits plan paid by the state. At this time the employee did not pay anything. Short time later it cost about \$20 a month. In the Peterson administration and also the Truman administration, they had as bad a budget deficit as this administration has ever had. Also in the Castle administration, also had terrible times with budgetary deficits so this is not the only administration that's had those. It's my understanding the purpose of this group is to find efficiencies in the medical benefits system and not to shift the medical benefit costs to state or active employees or retirees in the form of additional copays or deductibles to increase the pay for state employees, reduction in compensation. The SEBC placed over \$30M on additional copays for state employees and retirees this current year. State employees & retirees have seen little increase in compensation in last 7 years with compensation. Instead salaries were reduced by 2.5% and even though the 2.5% has been restored, employees have not made up the loss of the 2.5% of their pay. Much efficiency has been found for the state employees benefit plan since established in the Castle administration many years ago. Will have a very hard time coming up with additional efficiencies at this time. Seems to me to push for additional efforts to pre-fund medical benefits so the investment returns will pay a large part of the medical benefits for State employees & retirees in the future.
9/17/2015	DelTech Terry Campus	Dover	Cyndi Augermeier	Retiree	DSEA-R	Co-Pays	I have worked for the state for 39 years and I loved my job. However by doing that, I'd also had hoped I would have compensation for health care & I knew it wasn't a guarantee but I was looking forward to having things not to worry about. I am a recently retiree so right now I'm ok. But there are many people who retired before I did who did not have my salary, and I am very concerned about increasing co-pays, cause I think by doing that you are penalizing the people that are least able and least likely to be able to get a job to supplement their income. I think that many times the people who are going to be hit by the co-pay increase are the those least likely to be able to get out and help themselves.
9/17/2015	DelTech Terry Campus	Dover	James Harrison	Retiree	DSEA-R	Co-Pays	I'm a 32 year retiree from the Smyrna school district; I've taught school for 32 years. I'd like to tell you a story. I don't think this is unusual or uncommon, probably a lot of State employees or teachers have had a similar story. My roommate and I parted ways after college. A few years later, we crossed paths. While discussing certain things, our wages came into the conversation. I was surprised to find that he with a similar degree and a similar resume, was making double what I was making. The difference - he went into private industry as I went into the public service. This was a concern, a young man with a new wife and all the possibilities out there, how would I make ends meet. We took solace in the fact that as often heard you have a good benefits package. So the benefits package is part of your compensation. As time goes on, we begin to see this eroding of our medical benefit, our compensation package is being reduced and wages are stagnated. It really gets stuff as time goes on and the co-pays go up, and some of the things that have been proposed are absolutely - are going to put us in the position of can we continue, do we half to make decisions maybe we don't go to the doctor one less time. I encourage this commission to look for other ways then putting the burden of balancing this on State employees and non-Medicare retirees.
9/17/2015	DelTech Terry Campus	Dover	Lyndon Yearick	Legislative	House of Representatives 34th District	Deficit	I'd like to thank the committee to sponsoring this public forum to come out and gain feedback and solicit ideas. This is a daunting task for the committee, general assembly, the governor, these challenges are real, it's going to take serious discussions and problem solving skills that will not make a lot of popular decisions by any means. But if we don't get our arms around these expenditures as your graph indicated, I picked up on 2020 number but see an expected deficit for this year based upon what's coming in and going out with a \$150M deficit. If I remember correctly, we are sitting without any reserves or surplus going into this year. So let alone what 2020 brings, what 2017 brings. Being popular isn't always right, and being right isn't always popular, but there's going to be some tough decisions to be made. This feedback, input and discussions to hopefully make decisions not only for today but for tomorrow. I look forward to working with the commission and bringing the others some ideas to not only solve it for today but ideally put us in a better position for tomorrow.
9/17/2015	DelTech Terry Campus	Dover	John Messina	Active	DelDot	Co-Pays	I work at Maintenance building with DelDot. I understand that our rates are trying to be bumped up on our health coverage. It's hard to make ends meet, I'm almost 60 and have been working all my life. It's hard for the working man or woman to carry everybody all the time. Its time to take care of us. Don't take our benefits. I haven't seen a raise in probably 8 years. They keep taking, taking, taking. I'm not one to take so called entitlements, I work. Every day I go to work and come home and see people not working. I work hard, worked overtime tonight. I want our benefits to stay. I'd like to see a raise. Paying bills every day, bills in the mailbox. I can't put savings away because I've got more copays, more stuff taken out of my paycheck for health, it's got to stop, you got to take care of the working people. We're putting up new roads, we're putting up new buildings. I see SR1 all the time on weekends just bumper to bumper packed, I look at all of them cars and thinking \$3, \$3, \$3, where's all the money going. I want the money going to state workers to help supplement us not having to have our benefits raised. Where's all that money going? And that's just that. There's money coming into the state all over. Take care of the workers, and keep our benefits from going up and our copays. And don't take, don't keep taking. Sooner or later there's going to be one person on the highway going to work and supposed to support everybody, I don't think so. Take care of us, give us a raise, we've been working hard. Every time it snows, the roads have got to be down to asphalt or the public don't like it. There's millions of dollars spent and new technology and trucks to get the snow off the road so we can get down to blacktop and its expensive. A lot of computer stuff, it's nonsense, it breaks down more than its working. So the people that's looking at spending money on snow removal for instance, come on, let's get real and not spend millions and millions on things that don't work and always breaking. There's money that can be saved all over the place and help the working person. That's all I've got say, don't keep taking, we've had it, I've had it, I'm working all my life, I've had it, no more taking, stop the taking.

9/17/2015	DelTech Terry Campus	Dover	Tony (Anthony) Bryant	Active	DelDot	Policing Services	<p>I work for DelDot here in transportation and me & my other co-worker came out today from comment we saw in the paper which was on the back part of the paper which should have been in the front about upping our dues as far as health care. We don't make that much money now, maybe some of the public thinks we're rich but they're not sitting where I'm sitting at or standing where I'm standing at. I think we give enough, especially the ones of us in operation in pushing the snow while a lot of us are sleeping in bed nice & cozy, we are out there all night long getting it done. We're out there in any kind of weather, conditions and emergencies and all that. My coworker said enough but I just need to add something. I think if they want to save where a savings would be, want to check the doctors, pharmacies and things like that, someone want to police them. Sometimes they're giving us medicines and treatments that we really don't need. I think we'd save a lot of money if someone would start policing these people cause I know myself, if you look at the cost of medicine, there's a lot of costs there. Doctor's visits, copays and all that. Think it just needs to be sure that people aren't gouging. I saw something in the newspaper the other day this one doctor doing procedures or surgeries that wasn't needed and he got busted on it. That's what we need to look at. I think that accounts for a lot.</p>
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