



**Somerville Labor Coalition Unions Strongly Oppose Retirement  
Healthcare Reform Bill 59**

Oct 20, 2013

Dear SLC Member

Below is a statement that the SLC leadership fully supports. It cannot be stressed enough, that you call and e mail the state legislators provided below and convey a prepared statement to them. We hope you will take the time to stop this latest attack on your healthcare by Governor Deval Patrick. If this bill successfully passes, many of us will be using a good majority our retirement to money to fund our health insurance.

We ask that you call and e mail weekly and let these legislators know how you feel about House Bill 59. As a union, we are as one.

*In unity there is strength*

Sincerely,

The Somerville Labor Coalition Officers

What can you as a union member do to let our legislators enough is enough?

Use this prepared statement when calling or e mailing your State Rep/State Senator

### **Opposition Statement to State Legislators HB 59 Pension Health Care Reform**

*As a Municipal Union employee, I am opposed to House Bill 59. This bill diminishes benefits that were negotiated fairly through Collective Bargaining. When City workers were hired, the Understanding was they would be vested for pension and full health care after 10 years of service. Any changes to health care should be negotiated rather than be unilaterally stripped away by our state legislators. These changes are harmful and will cause severe hardship for hard working families.*

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## The Fight for Retirement Security

What's happening with OPEB?

Governor Patrick filed House Bill 59 which makes sweeping changes to public employee retirement benefits called, OPEB, or **O**ther **P**ost-**E**mployment **B**enefits. This bill would affect most state employees who are more than five years away from retirement.

Currently the bill has been assigned to the Joint Committee on Public Service. The hearing is scheduled for Oct 31, 2013.

We see any change to OPEB as a broken promise between the state and its employees. A hearing is scheduled for Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 so that you can come and testify at the Joint Committee on Public Service about the Bill and why you oppose it. We will need a large delegation to testify at the hearing.

What can members do now?

Remember that your telephone is a powerful lobbying tool. Legislators need to hear your voice. Below are call instructions to help you reach your Reps and Senators. Please give them a call and tell them why you oppose this bill and how it will affect your life and your family. Personal stories are the most powerful. If you get through to the office, ask for a meeting as well

Call instructions:

## **STATE House Switch Board: 617-722-2000**

Find your legislators at [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com)

When you call your Representative and Senator keep several things in mind.

1. When you call the office, you will likely get the reception desk. There are many Senators and Reps who share offices so some have the same number.
2. Ask to speak to the Senator/ Rep directly. If he or she is unavailable, that's ok. Ask for a staff person instead. Sometimes speaking to the Legislative Director/Aide is the best way to get your message through.
3. Emphasize that they are YOUR Senator / Rep. So be upfront about where you live and why you oppose the change to OPEB.
4. No matter what, be polite and be sure to thank them for their time.

### **Local State Representative and State Senates**

#### **Senate Members**

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-722-1578 [Email: Patricia.Jehlen@masenate.gov](mailto:Patricia.Jehlen@masenate.gov)

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico

Democrat, Everett

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-722-1650

Fax: 617-722-1323

[Email: Sal.DiDomenico@masenate.gov](mailto:Sal.DiDomenico@masenate.gov)

#### **Representative Members**

Representative Denise Provost

Democrat, Somerville

Boston, MA 02133

Phone: 617-722-2263

Fax: 617-626-0548

[Email: Denise.Provost@mahouse.gov](mailto:Denise.Provost@mahouse.gov)

Representative Carl M. Sciortino, Jr  
Democrat, Medford  
Boston, MA 02133  
Phone: 617-722-2013  
Fax: 617-626-0127  
[Email: Carl.Sciortino@mahouse.gov](mailto:Carl.Sciortino@mahouse.gov)

Representative Timothy J. Toomey, Jr  
Democrat, Cambridge  
Boston, MA 02133  
Phone: 617-722-2380  
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