

MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

MOTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

urging the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to vote against the current draft of the Public School Employees' Benefit Act, HB 1277, a bill which would establish a statewide health care system for public school employees in Pennsylvania due to the Act's potential deleterious effects on employees of the Commonwealth's Community Colleges.

WHEREAS, community colleges are not included in the enactment of HB 1277, except that, within 18 months after a health care benefits program or alternative measures program is fully implemented, a report would be issued by the Secretary of Administration to determine the feasibility of including community colleges in the statewide healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, by excluding community colleges, including the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), HB 1277 would increase healthcare costs for community college employees, because the Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium would be eliminated thereby forcing CCAC to purchase health insurance coverage individually; and

WHEREAS, the increased health care costs would create a hardship for Allegheny County, the sponsor of CCAC, as well as for students that would see their tuition increase in order to cover the increased health care costs; and

WHEREAS, while HB 1277 includes a feasibility report to examine whether or not community colleges should be included in the statewide plan, there is no assurance that they will be part of any statewide health benefits program or alternative measures program; and

WHEREAS, the health care consortia model is preferable to a statewide plan because the consortia can bargain directly with healthcare providers and enjoy more favorable premiums, a wider array of plan choices, and lower administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, HB 1277 will potentially harm many public education employees through increased healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, the flexibility and responsiveness that is built into the Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium benefits program would be lost once the state removes local control;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, AND IT IS THE SENSE OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, urging the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to vote against the current draft of the Public School Employees' Benefit Act, HB 1277.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: VICE PRESIDENT MARTONI

In Council December 16 2008.

Read and Approved.



Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest:



John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

Mascio, John R.

From: Mascio, John R.

Sent: Friday, December 19, 2008 12:09 PM

To: Gerald J. Lavalle; J. Barry Stout; Jane Orie; Jay Costa; Jim Ferlo ; John Pippy; Sean Logan; Wayne Fontana ; Anthony DeLuca; Bill Kortz ; Chelsa Wagner; Dan Frankel; David Levdansky; Don Walko; Frank Dermody; Harry Readshaw; Jake Wheatley; Jessie White ; John Maher; John Perzel; Joseph F. Markosek; Joseph Preston, Jr.; Lisa Bennington; Marc Gergely; Mark Mustio; Matthew Smith; Mike Turzai; Nick Kotik; Paul Costa; Randy Vulakovich; Sean M. Ramaley; 'Thomas C. Petrone'

Subject: Bill No. 4538-08 - Motion of Allegheny County Council

Attachments: 4538-08.PDF

At the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on December 16, 2008, Council unanimously approved the attached Motion sponsored by Council Vice President Chuck Martoni. As you will read, the Motion urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to vote against the current draft of the Public School Employees' Benefit Act, HB 1277, a bill which would establish a statewide health care system for public school employees in Pennsylvania due to the Act's potential deleterious effects on employees of the Commonwealth's Community Colleges.

Your attention to this Motion is requested.

John Mascio
Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council