



2020-21 SEC Executive Board

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September 21, 2020

Public Employees' Benefits Program Board
Attn: Wendi Lunz – Public Comment
901 South Stewart St. Suite 1001
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear PEBP Board Members,

On behalf of the Staff Employees' Council Executive Board at the University of Nevada, Reno, which represents classified employees at our institution, we offer the following public comment based on input received from our constituents.

The recent increase in premiums for Plan Year 21 for Public Employees' Benefits, which at its highest point was a substantial 42% increase, was an exceptionally difficult and somewhat unanticipated expenditure for many employees. While we realize that you provide information about upcoming changes to our benefits program transparently via your website, written correspondence and electronic notification, many plan recipients may have been aware of pending changes, but not aware of the substantial fiscal impact these changes would bring. With the realization that you are working to offer options to our public employees in their healthcare, we would request that you continue to work diligently to seek more equitably priced plans for employees utilizing the Request for Proposal process in place to ensure competitive bidding for potential new vendors. There are many state employees utilizing PEBP who are at the lower end of the pay scale and may be working within much more restrictive personal budgets. We appreciate you keeping all of our best interests in mind, while working to ensure public employees as a whole are receiving these vital benefits at a reasonable price.

We realize that as a board, you are taking prior and current year utilization into consideration when exploring potential new vendors and necessary premium increases and that it is not an exact science, but we implore you to be diligent about future plan premium increases, especially due to the current health and financial statuses encompassing our state.

As we realize that you as a board are receptive to feedback from members regarding the plan options provided, we ask that you take this letter into consideration for future plan contracts for our benefits. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this valuable feedback on behalf of the Staff Employees' Council at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Respectfully,

Tanya Wells, Chair
Staff Employees' Council