



Board of County Commissioners

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Lanza Calls on Governor to Investigate Proposed Rate Hikes for the State Health Benefits Program

Staggering Increases Unveiled for 2023

Hunterdon County Commissioner Director John E. Lanza has sent a letter to Governor Murphy requesting that his administration immediately investigate proposed rate increases for members of the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) for the upcoming calendar year that could have a damaging effect on property taxpayers.

Commissioner Director Lanza, liaison to the Finance Department, wrote, “local government participants in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), were recently advised of the possibility of staggering rate increases for 2023: specifically, a 24% hike for the “Active Medical” group, a 15.6% increase for “Early Retiree Medical” and a 3.7% increase in “Active Pharmacy.”

Lanza went on to note in his letter, “If enacted, the proposed premium hikes would visit financial hardships upon local governments, employee participants, and ultimately property taxpayers.”

Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren, the County’s liaison to the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) and also a member of NJAC’s executive board noted, “There are numerous questions that need to be answered including how the State’s actuaries are arriving at their projections. These are staggering increases that are harmful to local governments and property taxpayers.”

Commissioner Director Lanza also pointed to the compounding effect the proposed rate hikes would have on local governments and households facing unprecedented inflationary pressures, “These proposed premium increases will only further hurt New Jersey households who already pay the highest property taxes in the nation. They could not come at a worse time for our residents – of whom many are already struggling to get by.”

Commissioner Director Lanza’s letter is being sent to representatives of the 15th, 16th, and 23rd legislative districts, the New Jersey Association of Counties, and all Hunterdon County municipalities – many of whom are also members of the SHBP.