

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, Young, Henry, [illegible] DORSEY, Burnette, Bullock,

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference, Middleton, Costello, Pinnett, Stok

Referred to: LABOR Committee

Date: August 1, 2017
 Steed, Schieff
 Peisinger

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 17-0038R

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Investigative Hearing – Prescription Drug Coverage Cuts

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance, Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief the City Council on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

Mary Pat Clarke
Bob
Young
Henry
DORSEY
Burnette
Bullock
Stok
Steed
Schieff
Peisinger
Costello
Pinnett
Middleton
Young
Henry
Stok
Steed
Schieff
Peisinger
Costello
Pinnett
Middleton

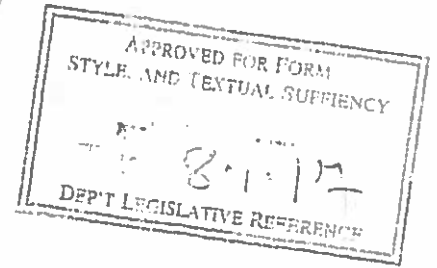
****The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

Agencies

_____	Baltimore City Public School System
_____	Baltimore Development Corporation
_____	City Solicitor
_____	Comptroller's Office
_____	Department of Audits
_____	Department of Finance
_____	Department of General Services
_____	Department of Housing and Community Development
_____	Department of Human Resources
_____	Department of Planning
_____	Other
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Department of Public Works
_____	Department of Real Estate
_____	Department of Recreation and Parks
_____	Department of Transportation
_____	Fire Department
_____	Health Department
_____	Mayor's Office of Employment Development
_____	Mayor's Office of Human Services
_____	Mayor's Office of Information Technology
_____	Office of the Mayor
_____	Police Department
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Board of Estimates
_____	Board of Ethics
_____	Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
_____	Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation
_____	Commission on Sustainability
_____	Employees' Retirement System
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Environmental Control Board
_____	Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
_____	Labor Commissioner
_____	Parking Authority Board
_____	Planning Commission
_____	Wage Commission
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____

Boards and Commissions

INTRODUCTORY*
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL _____ R
(Resolution)



Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Investigative Hearing – Prescription Drug Coverage Cuts

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance, Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief the City Council on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

Recitals

In 2014, the Baltimore City Department of Finance and Bureau of Budget Management wrote into the Baltimore City budget that prescription drug benefits for Medicare-eligible City retirees will sunset in 2020. This raises questions and concerns for retirees and current City employees alike.

The Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Budget Plan states that the sunset will occur at the same time as federal prescription drug coverage becomes available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The budget plan mentions no alternative options if the ACA is no longer operational in 2020. It is unclear how these changes will both aid the City budget and avoid placing an additional fiscal burden on retirees by raising overall Medicare costs if no federal coverage is available.

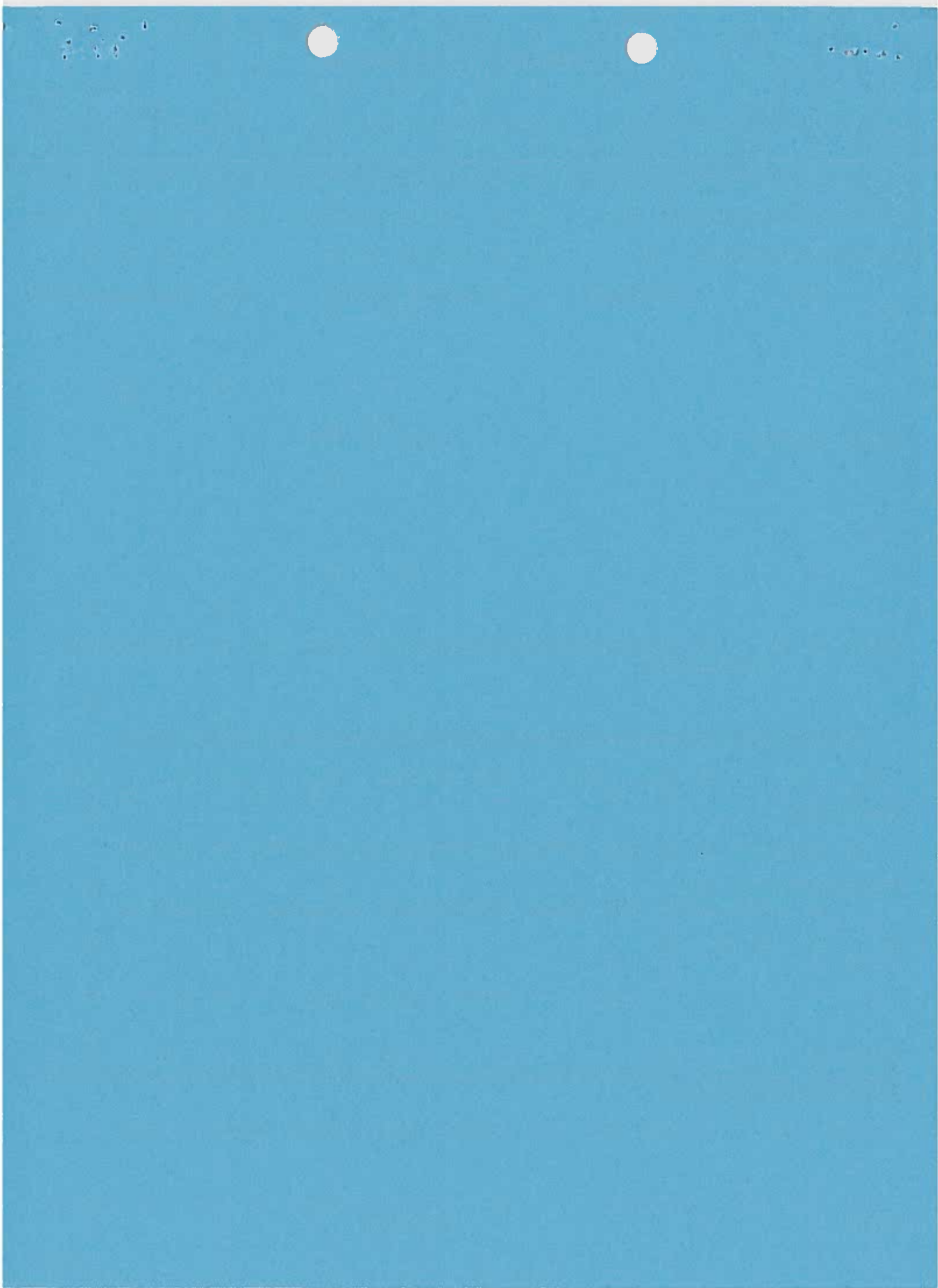
Some retirees are also concerned with the lack of communication from the City. While the City did send around letters to retirees in 2014 notifying them of the pending change, many retirees did not fully understand the implications of the letters and what steps they could take to keep their prescription drugs once City-subsidized drug coverage is suspended. Some are completely unaware of the coming drug cuts and therefore cannot plan the remainder of their retirement accordingly. The failure to adequately express these changes to both current retirees, employees, and the general public has made the decision more opaque and difficult to understand.

In order for these coming changes to be fully understood and accepted by Baltimore City retirees, employees, and the general public, the departments responsible for these decisions must think critically about the full implications of what's to come in 2020. It appears that coming changes to Medicare must be further publicized and questions and concerns of Baltimoreans must be addressed for these systems to be implemented with adequate fairness to those affected.

* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council requests that the Department of Finance, the Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief it on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Budget Director, the Health Commissioner, the Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System, the Executive Director of the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, the Comptroller, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.



ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL

AUG 14 2017

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) _____ 20 _____

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON _____ 20 _____

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF _____ 20 _____

_____ FAVORABLE _____ UNFAVORABLE _____ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED _____ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

_____ 20 _____

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING _____ 20 _____

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) _____ 20 _____

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) _____ 20 _____

WITHDRAWAL _____ 20 _____

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

President

Chief Clerk

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0038R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Scott, Dorsey,
Burnett, Bullock, Cohen, Middleton, Costello, Pinkett, Stokes, Sneed, Schleifer, Reisinger
Introduced and adopted: August 14, 2017

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Investigative Hearing – Prescription Drug Coverage Cuts

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance, Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief the City Council on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

Recitals

In 2014, the Baltimore City Department of Finance and Bureau of Budget Management wrote into the Baltimore City budget that prescription drug benefits for Medicare-eligible City retirees will sunset in 2020. This raises questions and concerns for retirees and current City employees alike.

The Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Budget Plan states that the sunset will occur at the same time as federal prescription drug coverage becomes available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The budget plan mentions no alternative options if the ACA is no longer operational in 2020. It is unclear how these changes will both aid the City budget and avoid placing an additional fiscal burden on retirees by raising overall Medicare costs if no federal coverage is available.

Some retirees are also concerned with the lack of communication from the City. While the City did send around letters to retirees in 2014 notifying them of the pending change, many retirees did not fully understand the implications of the letters and what steps they could take to keep their prescription drugs once City-subsidized drug coverage is suspended. Some are completely unaware of the coming drug cuts and therefore cannot plan the remainder of their retirement accordingly. The failure to adequately express these changes to both current retirees, employees, and the general public has made the decision more opaque and difficult to understand.

In order for these coming changes to be fully understood and accepted by Baltimore City retirees, employees, and the general public, the departments responsible for these decisions must think critically about the full implications of what's to come in 2020. It appears that coming changes to Medicare must be further publicized and questions and concerns of Baltimoreans must be addressed for these systems to be implemented with adequate fairness to those affected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council requests that the Department of Finance, the Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 17-0038R

1 Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief it on the scheduled 2020
2 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 Director of Finance, the Budget Director, the Health Commissioner, the Executive Director of
5 the Employees' Retirement System, the Executive Director of the Fire & Police Employees'
6 Retirement System, the Comptroller, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 17-0038R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Scott, Dorsey, Burnett, Bullock, Cohen, Middleton, Costello, Pinkett, Stokes, Sneed, Schleifer, Reisinger
Introduced and adopted: August 14, 2017

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Investigative Hearing – Prescription Drug Coverage Cuts

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance, Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief the City Council on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

Recitals

In 2014, the Baltimore City Department of Finance and Bureau of Budget Management wrote into the Baltimore City budget that prescription drug benefits for Medicare-eligible City retirees will sunset in 2020. This raises questions and concerns for retirees and current City employees alike.

The Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Budget Plan states that the sunset will occur at the same time as federal prescription drug coverage becomes available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The budget plan mentions no alternative options if the ACA is no longer operational in 2020. It is unclear how these changes will both aid the City budget and avoid placing an additional fiscal burden on retirees by raising overall Medicare costs if no federal coverage is available.

Some retirees are also concerned with the lack of communication from the City. While the City did send around letters to retirees in 2014 notifying them of the pending change, many retirees did not fully understand the implications of the letters and what steps they could take to keep their prescription drugs once City-subsidized drug coverage is suspended. Some are completely unaware of the coming drug cuts and therefore cannot plan the remainder of their retirement accordingly. The failure to adequately express these changes to both current retirees, employees, and the general public has made the decision more opaque and difficult to understand.

In order for these coming changes to be fully understood and accepted by Baltimore City retirees, employees, and the general public, the departments responsible for these decisions must think critically about the full implications of what's to come in 2020. It appears that coming changes to Medicare must be further publicized and questions and concerns of Baltimoreans must be addressed for these systems to be implemented with adequate fairness to those affected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council requests that the Department of Finance, the Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 17-0038R

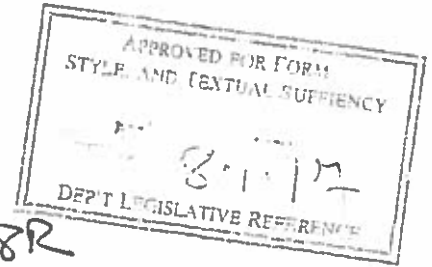
1 Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief it on the scheduled 2020
2 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 Director of Finance, the Budget Director, the Health Commissioner, the Executive Director of
5 the Employees' Retirement System, the Executive Director of the Fire & Police Employees'
6 Retirement System, the Comptroller, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

INTRODUCTORY*

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL _____ R**

(Resolution) 17-0038R



Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Investigative Hearing – Prescription Drug Coverage Cuts

IA

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance, Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief the City Council on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

Recitals

In 2014, the Baltimore City Department of Finance and Bureau of Budget Management wrote into the Baltimore City budget that prescription drug benefits for Medicare-eligible City retirees will sunset in 2020. This raises questions and concerns for retirees and current City employees alike.

The Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Budget Plan states that the sunset will occur at the same time as federal prescription drug coverage becomes available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The budget plan mentions no alternative options if the ACA is no longer operational in 2020. It is unclear how these changes will both aid the City budget and avoid placing an additional fiscal burden on retirees by raising overall Medicare costs if no federal coverage is available.

Some retirees are also concerned with the lack of communication from the City. While the City did send around letters to retirees in 2014 notifying them of the pending change, many retirees did not fully understand the implications of the letters and what steps they could take to keep their prescription drugs once City-subsidized drug coverage is suspended. Some are completely unaware of the coming drug cuts and therefore cannot plan the remainder of their retirement accordingly. The failure to adequately express these changes to both current retirees, employees, and the general public has made the decision more opaque and difficult to understand.

In order for these coming changes to be fully understood and accepted by Baltimore City retirees, employees, and the general public, the departments responsible for these decisions must think critically about the full implications of what's to come in 2020. It appears that coming changes to Medicare must be further publicized and questions and concerns of Baltimoreans must be addressed for these systems to be implemented with adequate fairness to those affected.

*** WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council requests that the Department of Finance, the Health Department, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, the Employees' Retirement System, the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, and the Office of The Comptroller brief it on the scheduled 2020 termination of prescription drug coverage for all Baltimore City employee retirees.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Budget Director, the Health Commissioner, the Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System, the Executive Director of the Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System, the Comptroller, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.