

Weekly Update March 10, 2019

Hello to all our AFSCME Retiree members. The fifth week of the 80th Nevada Legislative session found us taking a deeper dive into what will clearly be a huge issue this year: rising health care and drug costs, concerns about coverage, and what to do about this ongoing problem. Several legislators including Senator Yvanna Cancela (D-SD10) either have already released or are expected to release bills soon that would do everything from changing the way drugs are priced in Nevada, including the enormous rise in costs of insulin therapies, to putting an end to “surprise” billing tactics when a person is faced with an out-of-network provider in an emergency situation:

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/cancela-to-introduce-trio-of-pharmaceutical-bills-to-reign-in-high-drug-costs>

Another “hot topic” is putting protections for people with pre-existing conditions into Nevada law:

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/ratti-presents-bill-to-codify-affordable-care-acts-pre-existing-condition-protections-into-state-law>

The PEBP (Public Employee Benefits Program) had its first legislative update board meeting this last week and here are a few of the bills that Board is currently tracking:

[AB170](#) Enshrines Affordable Care Act Provisions in Nevada Law

[AB185](#) Covers out-of-network pharmacy prescription costs

[AB225](#) Out-of-Network Emergency Services Coverage

[SB90](#) Children’s Hearing Aids and other matters

[SB200](#) Adult Hearing Aids

[SB226](#) Prescription Drug Formulary-requires that PEBP and other plans use the federal formulary developed by HHS; also requires credits for patients towards plan savings from use of drug manufacturer “coupons”.

[SB235](#) Pre-existing Condition coverage.

We are also tracking bill drafts (BDRs) that could turn into health care bills. We are already, and will continue to, attend hearings and meet with the bills’ sponsors to make sure that the end result of these good intentions this session is not the unintended consequence of rising costs to plans including PEBP, that are then passed on to the health care consumer.

Please continue to feel free to send any questions you might have about the legislative session to us Afscme4041retirees@gmail.com and we will get back to you, while keeping you current with this weekly update.

