

# S U P P O R T

January 25, 2016  
Senate Committee on Civil Service & Pensions

MEMORANDUM IN  
**S U P P O R T**  
OF  
**S.3320 – Lanza / A.3539 – Weprin**

The CSEA strongly supports the passage of this legislation.

This bill would prohibit a public employer from diminishing the health insurance benefits of its retirees or their dependents or reducing the contribution the employer makes for such coverage.

There is currently no single standard protecting retired public employees from reductions in their health care benefits. While retirees from school districts, BOCES, and state service may enjoy such protections, many public employees do not.

Federal accounting rules that require government employers to report future health insurance costs as a liability have led to many local governments and public employers reducing health benefits or increasing the costs for health insurance for retirees. As a result, many public employee retirees have been forced into stressful financial situations where their health insurance is not affordable or their coverage is inadequate.

Protecting the quality and access of health insurance for retirees should be a priority for all New Yorkers. This bill will ensure that dedicated public servants are provided with sufficient health coverage and financial security in retirement.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees, CSEA strongly urges the passage of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner  
Director