

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020  
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-2686  
TOLL FREE 1-800-956-4050

MYERSTOWN OFFICE:  
112 WEST MAIN AVENUE  
MYERSTOWN, PA 17067  
PHONE: (717) 866-9144

ELIZABETHVILLE OFFICE:  
27 SOUTH MARKET STREET  
ELIZABETHVILLE, PA 17023  
PHONE: (717) 362-9051



*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

August 26, 1999

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON HOUSING  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

Mr. Edward Alexander  
20 Clearview Drive  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042

Dear Mr. Alexander: *EJ*

Thank you for contacting me regarding legislation that would increase medical insurance premium assistance to annuitants of the Public School Employees' Retirement System. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue.

Currently, the amount of the health insurance premium assistance is \$55 per month. In past sessions of the General Assembly various bills have been offered to raise the amount of the premium assistance, but none has won the approval of the Legislature.

Two bills with this intent have been offered this session. House Bill 677 would raise the premium assistance to \$162 per month, or the actual amount of the premium, whichever is less. It was referred to the House Education Committee on March 2, and awaits consideration by the committee. I am not a member of the Education Committee.

House Bill 1401 was referred to the same committee on April 28. This bill would tie premium assistance increases to an annual inflation adjustment. Beginning with the January 1, 2000 monthly premium payment, a participating eligible annuitant would receive the lesser of \$55 per month plus the annual inflation adjustment, or the actual monthly premium. For plan year 2000, the maximum monthly premium assistance payment after adjustment shall not be less than \$150 per month.

To pay for this, beginning July 1, 2000, every school entity would be required to make contributions to the Health Insurance Account of the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund each quarter in an amount equal to .72 percent of the total salary compensation during the pay periods of the preceding quarter. The Commonwealth would reimburse each employer an amount equal to one-half of the payable contributions.



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Mr. Alexander  
Page 2  
August 26, 1999

I cannot predict with any certainty whether either of these bills will gain the approval of the Legislature and the Governor, but either would be of great benefit to PSERS annuitants. It does make a great deal of sense to tie increases to adjustments for inflation. Rest assured, I will give my fullest attention to House Bill 1401 should it come before the House of Representatives for its consideration. ✓ vol per

Again, thanks for the benefit of your thinking on this matter. It is helpful to me when I hear from constituents regarding state government issues that are important to them. This prepares me to better represent them in Harrisburg. And, as always, please do not hesitate to call on me any time that I can be of service to you.

Very truly yours,



PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

PJZ/kc

2/14

Date edited to  
start sending

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

August 17, 1999

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON HOUSING  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

**TO:** Albert H. Lorence  
Member Services  
332 Capitol Annex

**FROM:** Representative Peter J. Zug  
Room 149B, East Wing  
Phone Number 7-2686

**USERID:** KIM CHRYSLER - please forward response letter through Groupwise

**SUBJECT:**

**POSITION:**

Please prepare a response to the attached letter.

Thank you.



**REPRESENTATIVE PETER J. ZUG**

**Constituent Action Form**

**Date Opened: 8/6/99**

**Date Closed:**

**Name: Ed Alexander**

**Address: 20 Clearview Dr., Lebanon, PA 17042**

**Telephone Numbers: (H) 273-8792 (W)**

**Social Security #: Driver License #:**

**Nature of Problem: Wants you to support HB 1401 - Nicole Evans Health Insurance Legislation. It creates a reserve fund for retired educators.**

*EYE  
Harrisburg  
lebanon*

**Action Taken:**

January 18, 2000

Mr. Peter J. Zug  
House Post Office State Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Zug,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 1401 and to restore a "thirty and out" retirement provision for school employees.

House Bill 1401 would help to support those retired school teachers who have not had their state contribution for health insurance increased since 1991. An increase would bring some parity to retired educators and other retired public employees.

I think that a permanent full retirement after thirty years of service in public education would serve our state educational system better than our present retirement system. The demands of teaching are much greater than they were at an earlier time. Students have greater needs and are much more demanding than they have ever been. They need teachers who are sympathetic and energetic. These needs have a better chance of being met by teachers who are not staying in teaching to reach full retirement.

I appreciate your attention given this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Kuhn".

Frank Kuhn, Jr.

Henry Fields  
PO Box 145  
Cornwall, Pa. 17016  
January 10, 2000

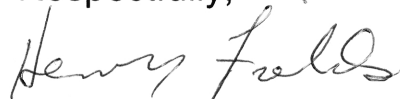
The Honorable Peter Zug:

I am writing to urge your support for House Bills 677 and 1401. As you realize the State contributes \$55.00 per month toward health care premiums for Pa.'s retired school employees. This amount was established in 1991 and has not been increased since that time.

Undoubtedly the Bill to pay \$55.00 was passed to address a recognized need. Even by 1991 standards the amount was minimal at best. In the year 2000 the consequence of \$55.00 when matched against the cost of health care premiums is almost embarrassing. State workers and legislators would tend not to have a concern in this matter since all benefits continue into retirement for them.

The two Bills , 677 and 1401, would provide much needed equity in the matter of health care premiums for retired educators who, it seems, have acquired a special position of disadvantage . Your support is needed in this matter. A reply would be appreciated.

Respectfully,



Henry Fields

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

April 7, 2000

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON HOUSING  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

Ms. Evelyn Peiffer  
515 South Third Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Dear Ms. Peiffer:

Thank you for contacting me regarding legislation that would increase medical insurance premium assistance to annuitants of the Public School Employees' Retirement System. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue.

Currently, the amount of the health insurance premium assistance is \$55 per month. In past sessions of the General Assembly various bills have been offered to raise the amount of the premium assistance, but none has won the approval of the Legislature.

Two bills with this intent have been offered this session. House Bill 677 would raise the premium assistance to \$162 per month, or the actual amount of the premium, whichever is less. It was referred to the House Education Committee on March 2, and awaits consideration by the committee. I am not a member of the Education Committee.

House Bill 1401 was referred to the same committee on April 28. This bill would tie premium assistance increases to an annual inflation adjustment. Beginning with the January 1, 2000 monthly premium payment, a participating eligible annuitant would receive the lesser of \$55 per month plus the annual inflation adjustment, or the actual monthly premium. For plan year 2000, the maximum monthly premium assistance payment after adjustment shall not be less than \$150 per month.

To pay for this, beginning July 1, 2000, every school entity would be required to make contributions to the Health Insurance Account of the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund each quarter in an amount equal to .72 percent of the total salary compensation during the pay periods of the preceding quarter. The Commonwealth would reimburse each employer an amount equal to one-half of the payable contributions.



Ms. Peiffer  
Page 2  
April 7, 2000

I cannot predict with any certainty whether either of these bills will gain the approval of the Legislature and the Governor, but either would be of great benefit to PSERS annuitants. It does make a great deal of sense to tie increases to adjustments for inflation. Rest assured, I will vote for House Bill 1401 should it come before the House of Representatives for its consideration.

Again, thanks for the benefit of your thinking on this matter. It is helpful to me when I hear from constituents regarding state government issues that are important to them. This prepares me to better represent them in Harrisburg. And, as always, please do not hesitate to call on me any time that I can be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete", written in black ink.

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

PJZ/kc



515 South Third Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

April 6, 2000

The Honorable Peter Zug  
Member of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Zug,

I am Evelyn Peiffer, an 83 year old, widowed school retiree from Lebanon. Currently I am receiving a retirement benefit of \$239.50. My Public School Employees' Retirement System health insurance premium is \$255.82. I also receive \$55.00 premium assistance, granted in 1991 and not changed or increased, through Act 23. With Federal Withholding of \$15.00 my total retirement benefit each month is \$23.68!

When the health insurance premium increases again, as it will, my retirement and premium assistance will no longer be enough to cover the cost.

I urge you to support HB 1401. This bill would provide increases in the Premium Assistance which I will need to pay for my health insurance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Evelyn Peiffer

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020  
.MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
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PHONE: (717) 362-9051



*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

September 15, 2000

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON HOUSING  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

**TO:** Albert H. Lorence  
Correspondence Unit  
332 Ryan Building

**FROM:** Representative Peter J. Zug  
Room 149B, East Wing  
Phone Number 7-2686

**USERID:** KIM CHRYSLER - please forward response letter through Groupwise

**SUBJECT:** HB 1401

**POSITION:** Supports

*Barb -  
"7/11"*

Our office is again being contact by constituents regarding HB 1401. Please prepare an updated response letter and groupwise to Barbara Shutter.

Should you have any question, please contact me at 7-2686. Thank you.



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**From:** Kim Chrysler  
**To:** Barbara Shutter  
**Date:** 9/15/00 2:59PM  
**Subject:** HB 1401

Please add Ms. Geneva A. Cooper, 903 South 4th Avenue, Leb 17042 to your list. She is the one who is on the "short list" and received a prior letter and now has sent another card.

Also, is it okay if I also add to your list? If so, just let me know when you create it and the name.

Kim Chrysler  
Office of Representative Peter Zug  
787-2686

Honorable Peter J. Zug

9/15 Barb will put on  
list for updated  
letter

Sir:

I urge you to support HB 1401. It is imperative that the Bill become law in September. Health options must be decided by school retirees by Nov. 15. Please urge your leadership to seek approval during the September session of the Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

*Geneva Cooper*

Retired Teacher of PA.

September 26, 2000

Honorable Peter J. Zug  
House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Zug:

Many thanks for your patient attentiveness and listening ear to us and to other Lebanon County school retirees in our efforts to get legislation passed which will increase the health care premium assistance. As you know legislation regarding this matter has been in the General Assembly for a number of years, but as of this date none has gained the approval of the State Legislature. We remain hopeful that such legislation will be passed in the current session of the General Assembly.

In our most recent contacts with you, you have expressed your continued support for such legislation. We thank you for this. If your support changes at any time, a telephone call to any of us would be appreciated.

House Bill 1401 is our immediate concern. We need your help to secure its passage. Your help can come in two ways. First, to continue urging the House leadership to schedule House Bill 1401 for final passage without amendment and secondly to vote for it. The provisions of this bill will especially help our older retirees who desperately need it the most due to the escalating cost of health care.

The contents of this letter are the collective thoughts of the Legislative Committee of the Lebanon County Chapter of Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR). The members of this committee are:

Rachel R. Noll	717-867-2137	Leon J. Kurtz	717-272-4264
Kenneth R. Good	717-866-2510	Kenneth G. Zimmerman	717-272-0037
Paul C. Dunkleberger	717-273-8356	Aaron T. Whitman	717-964-3567

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,



Larry Q. Hall  
Chairman, Lebanon County  
PASR Legislative Committee  
717-964-3447

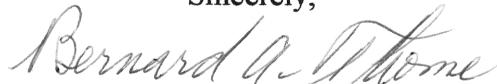
Bernard A. Thome  
10 Briarcliff Rd.  
Elizabethtown, PA  
17022-2809

Honorable Peter J. Zug  
House of Representatives  
P. O. Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative:

I am asking for your support of HB 1401 to increase medical insurance payments.  
Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard A. Thome". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bernard A. Thome

Dear Representative:

I am asking for your support in moving legislation which will increase a PSERS annuitant's health care supplemental support payment from \$55 to \$150 per month.

Currently legislation which includes these provisions is H.B. 1401.

Thank you for your support.

Name STEWART E. WOLF Phone 610-589-1904

Address 219 S. SHERIDAN ROAD, NEWMANSTOWN, PA. Zip 17073-9192

My personal story: AS A THIRD YEAR RETIRED <sup>TEACHER</sup> I PAY FOR MYSELF AND  
my WIFE FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUP <sup>PLAN</sup> WHERE  
I WAS EMPLOYED. THE COSTS HAVE GONE UP - UP - AND UP.  
WE NEED <sup>TO</sup> HELP TO OFFSET THIS INFLATION.

Stewart E. Wolf

Dear Representative:

I am asking for your support in moving legislation which will increase a PSERS annuitant's health care supplemental support payment from \$55 to \$150 per month.

Currently legislation which includes these provisions is H.B. 1401.

Thank you for your support.

(717)

Name Dolores L. Meek Phone 213-8334

Address 1645 Robin Rd., Lebanon, Pa. Zip 17042

My personal story: If state employees get med. ins. free after retirement, which is by my tax dollars. So why can't school retirees have the same. Put my taxes dollars for my medical ins.



Dear Representative:

I am asking for your support in moving legislation which will increase a PSERS annuitant's health care supplemental support payment from \$55 to \$150 per month.

Currently legislation which includes these provisions is H.B. 1401.

Thank you for your support.

Name Helen Barry Phone 866-2446

Address 210 Church St. Richland Zip 17087

My personal story: Peter, I asked Robert Jacoby who was in the Pa. Dept. of Education if he is receiving full health benefits. How did you manage that? His answer was "He asked for it." Could we be that fortunate? It was good seeing you.

Dear Representative:

I am asking for your support in moving legislation which will increase a PSERS annuitant's health care supplemental support payment from \$55 to \$150 per month.

Currently legislation which includes these provisions is H.B. 1401.

Thank you for your support.

Name SANDRA A. WOLF Phone 610-589-4904  
Address 219 S. SHERIDAN ROAD, NEWMANTOWN, PA. Zip 17073-9192

My personal story: I AM THE WIFE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIRED  
TEACHER AND BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR. WE NEED TO BE COVERED BY HEALTH  
INSURANCE AND WE PAY FOR IT OUT OF OUR <sup>OWN</sup> POCKETS. THE COST KEEPS GOING  
HIGHER & HIGHER. WE NEED MORE SUPPORT. Sandra A. Wolf