

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 19, 2016

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman
The Honorable Tom Carper, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper:

We are writing to request a hearing on the dramatic increase in premiums for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) the Senate's first week back following Labor Day.

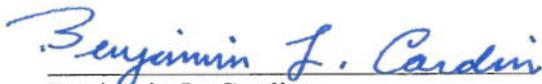
Last month, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that premiums will increase by an average of eighty-three percent, and up to one hundred twenty-six percent. This will be a sudden added expense of approximately \$111 per month for federal employees who purchase life insurance through OPM. This is a result of a new seven-year contract that will go into effect on November 1, 2016.

As you may know, a similar situation occurred in 2009 when the last long term insurance contract was negotiated, and premiums increased by up to twenty-five percent. The U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a joint hearing on the increase, and found that OPM "got it wrong."

OPM has once again gotten it wrong, at the expense of our constituents who will now face either increased premiums or decreased service. We ask that you hold a hearing to find out why OPM continues to dramatically increase premiums, and how we can best protect our constituents moving forward.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator


Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairman, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging
The Honorable Claire McCaskill, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging