October 29, 2026

BJC Healthcare
Aetna Inc.
Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)

Dear Representatives of Aetna Inc., BJC HealthCare, and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services:

On behalf of members of the Illinois Senate Republican Caucus, we are writing to urge all parties involved in the ongoing negotiations between Aetna and BJC HealthCare to work toward a resolution that protects continued access to healthcare for retired state employees and their families.

With the January 1, 2027, deadline quickly approaching, thousands of Illinois retirees face the possibility of losing access to the hospitals, physicians, and healthcare providers they rely on for essential medical care. Our offices have heard from constituents who are understandably concerned about what this potential disruption could mean for their health, their families, and their ability to receive the care they need.

These are individuals who dedicated years of their lives to public service and earned the healthcare benefits they now depend upon. They should not be left facing uncertainty about their medical care because an agreement has not been reached between the organizations responsible for providing that coverage.

We recognize that contract negotiations can involve difficult and complex issues. However, we also believe that all parties share a responsibility to put the needs of patients first and work diligently toward a mutually acceptable solution. A disruption in access to BJC HealthCare providers could place an additional burden on an already strained healthcare system and create unnecessary hardships for retirees.

Our priority is to ensure that these negotiations continue in good faith and that every reasonable effort is made to reach an agreement before the January 1 deadline. We strongly encourage Aetna and

BJC HealthCare to remain engaged, identify areas of compromise, and pursue every available opportunity to preserve continuity of care for affected retirees.

We also urge the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to take an active role in supporting these efforts. As the agency responsible for administering the state's employee health benefits programs, we urge CMS to work to ensure that retirees maintain access to an adequate network of healthcare providers. That responsibility includes working with the parties toward a resolution and preparing appropriate contingency measures should negotiations remain unresolved.

To provide greater clarity for the retirees we represent, we request a written response from each party by November 6 outlining the progress of negotiations, any remaining obstacles to an agreement, and the steps being taken to reach a resolution before January 1, 2027.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response and, most importantly, a timely resolution that provides certainty and peace of mind to the retirees and families who depend on these services.

Sincerely,



Sen. John Curran
41st District



Sen. Neil Anderson
47th District



Sen. Li Arellano, Jr
37th District



Sen. Chris Balkema
53rd District



Sen. Terri Bryant
58th District



Sen. Andrew Chesney
45th District



Sen. Don DeWitte
33rd District



Sen. Erica Harriss
56th District



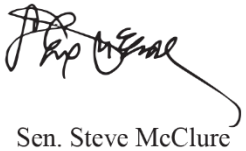
Sen. Darby Hills
26th District



Sen. Paul Jacobs
59th District



Sen. Seth Lewis
24th District



Sen. Steve McClure
54th District



Sen. Jason Plummer
55th District



Sen. Sue Rezin
38th District



Sen. Chapin Rose
51st District



Sen. Dave Syverson
35th District



Sen. Jil Tracy
50th District



Sen. Sally Turner
44th District



Sen. Craig Wilcox
32nd District