Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My comments pertain to the part of the LACERS request for adding reimbursement of the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) – the additional Medicare Parts B and D premium amounts that higher income Medicare enrollees must pay in addition to their basic Medicare Part B premiums. While I favor the addition of the IRMAA reimbursements in the current LACERS request, it is flawed in that it only favors certain retirees, while leaving out others in a similar Medicare premium and income situation. The LACERS proposal would only reimburse retirees whose income level is pushed into the IRMAA income levels as a result of their LACERS pensions. This is a relatively affluent set of retirees to begin with (a retiree would need a pension greater than $100,000 to be subject to IRMAA), as they were the high salary earners during their city employment. There are additional retirees who can be subject to IRMAA premiums, as a result of such income sources as post city service employment, withdrawals from traditional IRA plans, and capital gains earned from investments that the retirees made by investing their own money during their working lives. Some of this income can fluctuate from year to year, depending on economic conditions. I am not suggesting that LACERS reimburse all of the IRMAA premiums for all retirees, but extend the Medicare Part B reimbursement partly into the IRMAA premium income zone with a limit on the amount of premium reimbursement and/or the recipient's income level. The recipient would be responsible for providing qualifying documentation for any income level and premium expense, if LACERS cannot obtain that data directly from the Internal Revenue Service or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The City should be able to prudently cover the cost. The Funded Ratio for the Healthcare Plan has been at a healthy level in the past 2 years. The City's Contribution to the Healthcare Plan for the most recent Fiscal Year, is one of the lowest out of the past 16 years. I am a LACERS retiree with city service from 1990 to 2018. Thank you for your consideration.