



# Tell the GIC you are outraged!

***The GIC must reverse course!*** With no public notice or opportunity for participant input, the Group Insurance Commission voted 8-5 with two abstentions on Jan. 18 to make drastic changes in insurance carriers for both active and retired public employees. The commissioners themselves did not receive specific information about the proposed changes until the night before the vote, and the public had no advance notice. All labor representatives on the commission voted against the changes.

**But we need to do more:** We need to make our voices heard in the days ahead. And we need to continue the fight for a single-payer health insurance system.

The GIC is now seeking comment on plan design changes — adding further fuel to the disruptive fire sparked by Thursday’s vote.

We are urging MTA members to speak out at [upcoming public hearings](#) on both issues — the reduction in carriers and the coming plan design changes. Members are also urged to call the GIC’s main phone number, (617) 727-2310, with concerns and to submit their comments online [here](#).

## **Suggested messages:**

- The process for approving these changes was **outrageous and undemocratic**. The GIC must reverse Thursday’s vote and hold a fair and transparent public hearing process before voting on changes.
- The GIC should not move forward until and unless it can **explain to participants exactly how they will be affected**. For example, what does it mean that “most” members will be able to retain their doctors and networks? What recourse, if any, will participants have if their doctors do NOT accept insurance from the new carriers? What is the impact of these changes on municipal health insurance plans that are linked to the GIC? These and other questions should be answered BEFORE any future votes.
- Beyond the carrier issue, **what plan design changes is the GIC now considering**, and how will the proposed changes affect participants?
- The GIC should **schedule public hearings in more locations and in the evenings**, when working men and women can actually attend and let their voices be heard.

## **Summary of GIC changes approved January 18**

**For active employees**, the number of carriers is being cut from six to three: UniCare, Neighborhood Health Plan and Health New England. Participants will no longer be able to sign up for Fallon Health, Tufts Health Plan or Harvard Pilgrim Health Care after July 1. **Medicare carriers** were cut from five to two: UniCare and Tufts Health Plan. And for the estimated 10,000 **retired municipal teachers** in what is known as “Pool 2,” UniCare will be the only carrier.

The GIC anticipates that nearly half of its members will be able to retain their current health plans, while the remaining 200,000-plus will “automatically” migrate to new plans and “have a chance” to select a new plan during open enrollment.

The GIC contends that “most” members will be able to keep their doctors and networks, but we have seen no guarantee to that effect in writing.