



Sen. Sherrod Brown Year End Message for Delphi Salaried Retirees Association

It is past time for Delphi retirees to receive the compensation they have earned.

Dorothea, an hourly Delphi employee, sent a letter to my office seeking assistance a few years ago. She wrote, "To sum up my feelings, I was afraid to die; now I am afraid to live. No pension, no health care, no Social Security, no jobs, etc. Please help!"

More than 5,000 Delphi retirees, like Dorothea, who have worked hard and played by the rules, aren't looking for a hand out. They are looking for help.

It is important for me to continue to connect workers with the resources needed to help make ends meet. Congress has a role to play in ensuring that Delphi retirees don't have to go to bed hungry or go bankrupt because of an illness.

When businesses enter bankruptcies, workers and retirees should be protected. That's why I co-sponsored the *Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2012*, which improves the likelihood that workers and retirees will be able to recover resources when a company goes under.

It makes no sense for executive compensation programs to remain protected during bankruptcies while workers and retirees get hit hard. When a company goes through bankruptcy, why should well-connected executives get retiree perks when at the same time, workers are losing their retirement or health benefits?

Delphi retirees should not be denied health coverage when they need it most. That's why I'm proud of our work together, which helped the Senate pass legislation to provide health coverage rebates for Delphi retirees. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) – which provides a 65 percent health coverage rebate for enrolled Delphi retirees through January 1, 2014 – are critical to the economic well-being and health of middle class families. It means the difference between seeing an illness worsen and being able to afford vital prescriptions.

But more can be done.

My colleague Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and I have urged the Obama Administration to review the Delphi Salaried Retirees Association (DSRA) settlement proposal. I've also reached out to Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Director Joshua Gotbaum on behalf of DSRA to sit down with retirees and resolve this problem.

Yet, too many Ohio families are still seeking action. In September, I introduced legislation to make sure proceeds from the sale of government-owned GM stock go toward Delphi pensions.

Along with my colleagues in Congress, I am working closely with the Administration to ensure that Delphi retirees are treated fairly and get the pensions and health care they have earned. GM is back on the road today because American citizens – taxpayers – financed the company during the economic downturn. Some 5,000 Delphi retirees in Ohio deserve their fair share.