

Ms. Muehlberger,

Please accept our RSVP and written comments below for consideration in granting the rate increase requested by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company G.LTC 1697 for long-term care policy holders in the State of Maryland.

Written Comments on the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company G.LTC 1697's request for rate increase:

Martin Fairclough has had a LTC policy with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife) since 2002. This policy was taken out at that time precisely because his father had a stroke in 1998 but did not have any LTC policy. After four years with in-home care mother was on the edge of bankruptcy.

We are in our 70's and like so many other families in Maryland, we are retired with no pensions and very modest savings. In our particular situation we are supporting our two grown sons who have developmental disabilities; they will not be able to care for us as we age.

A letter from MetLife dated February 2019 stated that they had received a 32.25% premium increase and authority to implement a 12.5% increase on Martin's policy by the Maryland Insurance Administration that went into effect June 2019. The letter also stated MetLife intended to request an additional increase that, if authorized, would be implemented the following year (2020).

While we have anticipated their request for the increase, we do not understand why we, along with so many other residents of the State of Maryland, are held responsible year after year to pay increased policy premiums to offset the costs for their actuarial miscalculations.

For approximately 18 years premiums on the long-term care policy have been paid. Each year premiums have increased. MetLife LTC is offering options that reduce premiums by reducing coverage. Whatever is selected will significantly decrease funds available to pay for future affordable care and rising health care costs. These choices meaningfully reduce our ability to take care of ourselves/each other especially when there is no family to help defray the costs of care.

We urge this board to seriously consider the consequences of this rate increase request and minimize the amount authorized.

Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely

Martin and Lois Fairclough