

# Letter from the Editor

By Jeffery M. Rykhus

And it's round and round we go again with health care reform or repeal. I hope that all the readers of this newsletter will strive to inform themselves on the issues surrounding the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare and will be active citizens in the debate currently happening in Congress.

This issue of *In the Public Interest* begins with our Chairperson's Corner, which is a "Review of OPEB Research." In his article, Steve Bryson explains the current research project that is underway in our section, to explore the extent of other post-employment benefits for public employees and how well they are funded or, more likely, not funded. Steve's article brings to light the three stages of the research project and what is being planned in each stage.

The third article is, "Mortality in Social Security Actuarial Projections, A Summary of the Social Security Panel at the 2017 Living to 100 Symposium," by Sam Gutterman. Sam discusses the issue of mortality projections and how they are used in Social Security projections, specifically in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

The fourth article is "Selling Insurance Across State Lines," by Larry Mitchell. Larry walks us through his analysis of the effect that selling insurance across state lines will have on the individual market, and he states, along with other interesting comments, this will not stem overall rising health care cost trends. Larry also provides an interesting example regarding unintended consequences of this proposal, if a company were to get the lion's share of the state market.

The fifth article, "Gender Differences in Social Security," by Bruce Schobel is a history of gender differences that have



changed over time in Social Security law. Interestingly, these differences, in general, have historically provided a bigger benefit to women. Now gender parity has been achieved, and benefits between men and women are equal, though Bruce has some interesting observations on that situation as well.

The sixth and final article, "Appropriateness of Risk Taking by Public Pension Plans — Part I," is authored by Don Boyd and Yimeng Yin. This article was chosen to be more middle-of-the-road and to present the issue of public pension funds' investing in riskier asset classes from a more academic point of view. Because of its length it had to be split into two parts, and the final part will be published early next year.

That's all for now, folks. Please keep yourself informed on actuarial topics in the news, and I hope that as many of you as possible can attend the Society of Actuaries Annual Meeting in Boston this October. See you there. ■



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