

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PIPE TRADES HEALTH & WELFARE FUND ACTIVE PLAN

## SUPPLEMENT #22

To: All Participants

From: Board of Trustees

Date: October 2009

Re: Eligibility of a Student on a Medical Leave of Absence

**PLEASE KEEP THIS NOTICE WITH YOUR SUMMARY  
PLAN DESCRIPTION BOOK**

Pursuant to “Michelle’s Law” signed into law on October 9, 2008, the Health & Welfare Plan Section 5(C) is amended, effective January 1, 2010, as follows:

Currently, a Participant’s dependent child who is over age 18, but younger than age 23, remains eligible for benefits under the Plan as long as he or she is enrolled as a full time student at an accredited high school, trade school, college or university, and otherwise meets the Plan’s definition of dependent. Under the new law, if a covered dependent child takes a medically necessary leave of absence from the educational institution, he or she may continue to be covered under the Plan for up to one year, but no later than the day the dependent becomes age 23.

A medically necessary leave of absence means any leave of absence or other change in the enrollment status of the dependent at his or her educational institution, such as a change to part-time student status, which begins while the child is suffering from a serious illness or injury, that is medically necessary as certified by the treating physician, and which causes such child to lose full-time student status for purposes of continued eligibility under this Plan.

Such extended dependent eligibility will continue until the earlier of:

- one year after the first day of the medically necessary leave of absence; or
- the date coverage would otherwise terminate under the terms of this Plan.

This kind of dependent eligibility is available only if the Fund office receives written certification by a treating physician of the dependent child stating that the dependent child is suffering from a serious illness or injury and that the leave of absence or change in enrollment status is medically necessary.