



WHAT IS FAIR???

The House Finance Committee has passed a budget that includes yet another set of significant cuts in pension benefits for teachers and state workers. These changes cost hard-working teachers and state workers benefits valued at \$55 million per year. These changes are on the heels of major pension cuts in 2005 and a contribution increase in 1995.

We object to the taking of pension benefits from vested workers who have regularly and faithfully made pension contributions every pay period. We believe that Article 7 is illegal and unwarranted, and we ask that some specific changes be made to mitigate the pension reduction.

Maintain the three – year average

Article 7 would base our pensions on the average of the five highest years of compensation instead of the highest three. We ask that you amend Article 7 to preserve the three year average in calculating benefits.

Give us time to make purchases

Article 7 makes the purchase of prior service very expensive. This change is retroactive to all purchase requests made after June 16, 2009. We ask you to amend Article 7 by making the increased cost of purchasing service credit effective October 1, 2009 like the other effective dates.

Let us get our money back

Some of us have purchased service credit to buy years of service that are now worthless because Article 7 will make us work more years in order to retire. Amend Article 7 to allow us to get a refund of these purchases.

Get us off the roller coaster

Teachers and State workers are weary of our pensions and benefits being under attack year after year. Promise us that whatever changes are enacted this year will be the final set of changes by giving us a property right to pension benefits earned by vested workers after ten years of service directly into state law.