



North Carolina Retired School Personnel

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Protect retirees & public education!

During the 2017 legislative session the North Carolina General Assembly will consider proposals that could affect the security of retirees, the stability of their health care and the continued effectiveness of the public schools in the communities where they live. The list below describes these issues. We appeal to you to act on behalf of your constituents!

- (01) **Support the State Health Plan** – The SHP provides health care coverage to more than 650,000 state employees, retirees, current and former lawmakers, and their dependents. With health care costs rising, the SHP is a huge recruitment and retention tool for NC schools and government and a valuable benefit for retirees and dependents. Changes that will balance affordability while maintaining the soundness of the program should be made carefully and after consultation with stakeholders. **Conclusion:** Maintain full funding for SHP and preserve this benefit for new and current employees and retirees!
- (02) **Support the State Pension Plan** - The Teachers and State Employees pension plan (known as TSERS) is financially sound—one of the strongest pension plans in the nation—and it provides retirement income for more than 640,000 current and retired employees. About 95% of the benefit recipients live in the state, and their pension dollars support an estimated 45,000 jobs. TSERS helps the state attract and retain good workers, including teachers. **Conclusion:** Support a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), fund the Employer Contribution (ARC) for TSERS, and preserve this defined benefit plan for new state workers!
- (03) **Support public school students and teachers** – All across North Carolina thousands of youngsters appear at their local public school. They get just one chance at a good education—an education that will make them productive citizens in their communities. Study after study has shown that well-trained, well-paid, *experienced* teachers make a crucial difference in student success. Legislators can do their part by supporting increased funding for schools (especially books) and increasing teacher pay across all levels. Our state must stop pouring more and more money into voucher schools until their effectiveness is proven and their accountability is tested and strengthened. **Conclusion:** Support increased funding for public education and give every North Carolina child the best possible start on a life of responsible citizenship!

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