



School Employee Retirees of Ohio, Inc.

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February 24, 2011

We are concerned about news items we are hearing surrounding Senate Bill 5 that are disconcerting for our membership and retirees. As a support group for School Employee Retirees our first concern is with the current and long term solvency of the pension systems. Our retirees do understand the reality of funding levels as they have incurred major cost increases for premiums due to recent market losses.

It is with that knowledge that we cannot understand statements that appear to put the blame for struggling budgets from local areas purely on “public employees” costs.

We believe that there may be opportunities for discussion with regard to binding arbitration or collective bargaining issues and are not comfortable with the pace of large scale changes without the benefit of these discussions. For those reasons, we do not believe that repeal of the current law is in order and therefore do not support Senate Bill 5 as introduced.

We thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of our retirees and School Employee Retirees.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George M. Phillips".

George Phillips, President
School Employee Retirees of Ohio, Inc.