

Madam Chair and Committee Members,

It's a matter of fairness. The Texas Legislature's HB1 proposes drastic cuts to teachers' retirement and health care state contributions. But THEIR benefits are top notch - automatic increases based upon the salary of state district judges. When the judges' salary goes up, so does the retirement annuity of Texas Legislators and statewide elected officials, both current and retired. And their health care premiums, while they receive their lifetime retirement, are 100% paid by the taxpayers; even 50% of their dependents' premiums are paid.

Last week, TRS raised active teacher health insurance premiums to as much as \$1400+ a month per family. And they are discussing raising retired teachers' premiums after not giving us a monthly annuity increase in 10 years. For the time being, TRS has delayed action to increase retired teachers' premiums.

Texas Legislators are eligible for full retirement benefits at age 60 after only 8 years of part-time work or at age 50 with 12 years of work. And it's no 401K. It's a lucrative defined benefit retirement plan. And one more detail, LEGISLATORS AND STATEWIDE OFFICE HOLDERS WILL GET SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TOO!

Madam Chair and Members, please don't break your promises to us. Cut your own retirement benefits before you cut state contributions to TRS and TRS-Care. Thank you.

*Maui Drummond*