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July 8, 2021

Contact:

Austin Arceneaux - 713-850-1981

Austin.Arceneaux@senate.texas.gov



Joan Huffman
Senator ★ District 17

Senator Huffman Seeks to Provide Retired Educators with a 13th Check

AUSTIN- Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston) filed Senate Bill 7 today to provide eligible TRS retirees who retired on or before December 31, 2020 a one-time supplemental check in the amount of their monthly annuity or \$2,400, whichever is less. With approximately 96% of public education employees not covered by Social Security and TRS being the sole source of their retirement income, it is vital that the State of Texas continue to provide sufficient retirement benefits to these dedicated public servants. "We can never truly repay our retired public education employees, but I am hopeful that this supplemental payment will help," said Senator Huffman. "From retired teachers to cafeteria workers to bus drivers, their public service to the children of Texas has been invaluable."

After the pandemic, TRS retirees deserve a 13th check more than ever. However, benefit enhancements come with a significant cost and should only be considered when the Legislature has the funding to provide them. "Luckily, with the Texas economy roaring back, I am hopeful that the Legislature will be able to fully fund a 13th check without issuing any further debt to the State or to the pension fund. I am grateful to be working with Senator Jane Nelson and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick on this critical issue and look forward to sending our retired educators an additional check in the near future!"

(Senator Joan Huffman represents District 17, which includes portions of Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris counties. Huffman currently serves as Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, Chair of the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, and as a senior member of the Senate Committee on Finance, Administration, and Legislative Budget Board. Huffman and her family reside in Houston.)

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