



CUTS TO OUR PERS RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Our PERS retirement benefits are the chopping block again. Several bills, including SB 560 and SB 913 would have devastating results the retirement benefits of current and future employees.

These extreme bills would effectively slash new state employees' retirement by roughly 31 percent to make up for investment losses incurred during the recession.

Here is what these bills would do:

- **Cut your compensation by 6 percent** to pay PERS fund investment losses.
- **Eliminate the Individual Account Plan for new hires.**
- Reduce retirement benefits for new hires by **roughly 31 percent.**
- **Reduce your retirement benefits** by changing the final salary calculation from a three-year to a five-year average.
- **Cap final average salary** to be used in pension benefit calculations.
- **Increase the retirement age** for all active PERS-eligible employees.
- **Will face a lengthy and expensive court challenge.** Taking public employee account contributions to pay off investment losses is equivalent to taking personal property for public purpose without just compensation.

For years educators have accepted lower pay, knowing they would have access to a secure retirement. Now we are being told that despite having a dead-last corporate tax rate, public employees are going to be held liable for the market crash.

Our message is simple: cutting the retirement of middle class Oregonians is not how we piece together a budget. We already have a shortage of educators in Oregon. Continuing to attack our retirement will only make it harder to attract and retain educators.

Lawmakers in Salem have a choice: they can keep their promises to public employees, or they can side with the corporate lobbyists and their unfair agenda.