



Taxpayers United of America

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January 17, 2012

Honorable Terry Branstad
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

re: Release of Public Employee Pension Information

Dear Governor Branstad,

I am Vice President of Taxpayers United of America (TUA), one of the largest taxpayer organizations in the U.S. We thank you for your focus on jobs and responsible spending of taxpayer funds.

In the past year, we of TUA have travelled to many states to research and publicize public employee pensions. We have often found that government pensions are higher than private sector salaries! In response to our FOIA requests, we have generally received the information requested, including the “Top 100” government salaries and the “Top 100” government pensions.

Some states readily recognize individual pension payouts as public information, since they are paid for with taxpayer dollars. They readily make them available for public view. Sadly, this is not the case in Iowa.

In your Inaugural address, you stated, “...government must serve the people. And not vice versa. Leadership is about service, not power. I stand here again, as your Governor, with my wife, kids and grandkids at my side, because I yearn to serve. And I ask each government employee, from the clerks to the supervisors, to the department heads, to never forget: it is the people who are our bosses...”

We heartily agree. Please release Iowa’s pension information.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would have your staff contact me, so we can discuss this matter.

Thank you,

Christina Tobin, Vice President