



Taxpayers United of America

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February 21, 2012

Honorable Sam Brownback
Room 241-S, Capitol Building
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka KS, 66612-1590

Re: Release of Public Employee Pension Information and Pension Reform

Dear Governor Brownback,

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 attracting jobs by lowering taxes.

In the past year, we of TUA have travelled to many states to research and publicize government 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 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 Kansas.

In your January 11, 2012 State of the State, you indicated that Kansas was in transition from, “From an unsound pension system — to an honest defined contribution system...”

To be both *honest* and *sound*, pension reform should include:

- The release of pension information with recipient names for public review
- All new hires placed in a defined contribution system with Social Security
- Increase contributions of current employees by as much as 10%.

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

Thank you,

Christina Tobin

Christina Tobin, Vice President