



Taxpayers United of America

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April 29, 2013

Hon. Patrick Quinn
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Fax: 217-524-4049

Dear Gov. Quinn,

As you are acutely aware, the Illinois state pension funds are in dire straits. Unfunded liabilities are estimated to be between \$90 billion and \$200 billion, depending on what actuarial standards are used.

Taxpayers United of America (TUA) has been pushing for government pension reforms that include:

- Raising the retirement age to 67
- Increasing employee pension contributions 10%
- Requiring all members to contribute 50% to their healthcare premiums
- End COLA's
- Immediately replace the defined benefit pension with a defined contribution for all new hires

It is mathematically impossible to tax your way out of the government pension debacle, and to continue trying is totally unrealistic.

We are calling for a hiring freeze of all state government agencies whose employees participate in the crippled Illinois government pension system until comprehensive government pension reform, which includes all of the measures stated above, is put into effect. Continuing to add people to the system that will bankrupt the state and decimate taxpayers' wealth is irresponsible.

It's time to stop politicizing this critical issue that is nonpartisan in its impact. Pensioners and taxpayers will suffer devastating economic consequences when the state can no longer afford to fund the pension plans, and annuities are abruptly ended without notice.

Sincerely,

Jim Tobin
President,
Taxpayers United of America