

From: [Matt Zuvich](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: PEPR COALITION CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SCPP
Date: Friday, December 4, 2015 12:23:37 PM
Attachments: [Matt Zuvich.vcf](#)
[20151204 teacher return to work SCPP ltr FINAL.pdf](#)

Greetings,

Please see the attached letter to the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy from the PEPR coalition. On behalf of the coalition we would be grateful if you would add the attached to constituent correspondence.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you

Matthew D. Zuvich

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Public Employees for Pension Responsibility

A coalition of Washington State Public Employee Unions and Retirees
Associations serving active and retired state and public employees

To: Members of the Select Committee for Pension Policy (SCPP)
From: Public Employees for Pension Responsibility (PEPR)
Date: December 4, 2015
Re: Return to Work Option for Retirees

At their November 20th meeting, the members of the PEPR coalition agreed to request that the SCPP support current legislation to address the needs of school districts, smaller counties and smaller cities to increase the availability of persons available for substitute, short-term contract, and project work.

Currently, retirees in PERS/SERS/TRS Plans 2 and 3 who elect to retire early using the 2008 early retirement factors lose their pension payment during any month in which they return to work for a public employer before age 65, making it financially impossible to accept periodic or short-term work. Other retirees in PERS/SERS/TRS can work up to 867 hours in a year before having their pension benefit suspended. These differences add complexity to our pension system, create inequities, and restrict quality personnel from filling critical needs of school districts and other entities.

Allowing early retirees to return to work under limited hours (867 is the maximum allowed for other DRS system retirees) would entail minimal costs to the State and yet help meet the needs that have been presented in writing and through testimony before the committee.

PEPR believes The Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) should make a recommendation to the Legislature supporting, at a minimum passage of SHB 1737 which would help address the current shortage of substitute teachers school districts are experiencing. This bill passed the House during the 2015 session on a vote of 97:1.

School districts and smaller cities and counties have also identified issues with finding substitutes for classified school personnel positions and filling short-term positions in local governments. PEPR recommends that the SCPP consider expanding the positions and hours that could be covered under the provisions of SHB 1737 to include other school personnel and other local government employees.

We are pleased to see SCPP will be having a public hearing on SHB 1737, and urge the committee to act favorably on legislation addressing these needs and make a formal recommendation for legislative action.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

PEPR
(Public Employees for Pension Responsibility)
Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE)
Matt Zuvich, Chair – 360-352-7603

American Federation of Teachers Washington
Bernal Baca

Washington State Council of County and City Employees
Council 2
J. Pat Thompson

Washington State Labor Council
Joe Kendo

Joint Council of Teamsters #28
Majken Ryherd/ Teresita Torres

IBEW Local 77
Bob Guenther, G.A.

Professional And Technical Employees Local 17
Vince Oliveri/Adrienne Thompson

David Westberg
Stationary Engineers/IUOE-Local 609
AFL-CIO

Washington Education Association &
Washington Education Association – Retired
Julie Salvi/Kit Raney

SEIU Local 925
Lani Todd

SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW
Lindsey Grad

Retired Public Employees Council of Washington
Maria Britton-Sipes/Cody Arledge

Association of Washington School Principals &
Washington Association of School Administrators
Fred Yancey

Washington State School Retirees' Association
Peter Diedrick

Teamsters Local 117
Brenda Wiest