

Arkansas Retired Teachers Association

Parkview Towers
1200 Commerce
(501) 375-2958

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State and Public School Life & Health Insurance Legislative Task Force
Arkansas State Capitol
500 Woodlane St.
Little Rock, AR 72201-1090

Senator,

The Arkansas Retired Teachers Association would like to thank you for allowing me to provide testimony before the Task Force on behalf of all the retired public school employees of Arkansas. We believe that all public school employees are public servants serving the State of Arkansas by educating the public school students of Arkansas from pre-kindergarten through post graduate programs. In order to have the best employees in public schools it is necessary to provide a health insurance program for all current and retired education professionals. Providing the PSE Health Insurance Program, all public school districts are able to recruit, retain and reward employees for their many years of service. Every child in Arkansas deserves the best educational opportunities possible so they we be successful in the global society. The employees of school should be healthy to accomplish this goal. Providing the PSEHI is one of the items needed for this to be accomplished.

The Public School Employee Insurance Program began in the early 1980's to ensure that all public school employees and retirees could have health insurance. Since that time, retired public school employees have considered the health insurance program as part of their retirement benefits. As you are aware, the Exordinary Special Session of the Arkansas Legislature in October 2013, provided no direct subsidies for reitred public school employees. Please consider the need for the PSEHI continuing to provide coverage for retired public school employees.

Respectfully,

Donna Morey