



Kentucky Retired Teachers Association

7505 Bardstown Road
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Louisville, KY 40291-3234

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Presidents
District Presidents

FROM: Bob Wagoner, Ed.D. *BW*
Executive Director

DATE: November 25, 2013

RE: Telephone Campaign
Governor Beshear

On September 26, 2013, KTRS Executive Secretary Gary Harbin told lawmakers on a budget subcommittee that the state has not increased the contribution rate for teacher pensions since 2008 and that the system has only 54% of money needed to pay long-term benefits. On November 20, 2013, he told the Interim Joint Committee on State Government the same thing.

Mr. Harbin informed the budget subcommittee that the state is in a position where the longer it delays increasing its contribution, the worse it will be for the state and the taxpayers. The Louisville Courier-Journal reported the next day that House Budget Chairman Rick Rand, D-Bedford, cast doubt on the \$400M budget request by Mr. Harbin, calling it "unrealistic" and saying it is unlikely "we are going to be able to do anything major to it in the short term."

In further testimony before the budget subcommittee, Mr. Harbin said that KTRS has more than 140,000 members. Teacher pensions provide an economic benefit to the Louisville area alone that is equivalent to the University of Louisville. He also reminded lawmakers that KTRS is a very low-cost way to provide retirement security to teachers.

We must work to keep KTRS alive and fiscally sound. What can we do? We can call Governor Beshear's Office and leave him a message!

It is important that you get your local RTA members to place telephone calls to Governor Beshear's Office (502-564-2611) by Thursday, December 12.

Leave this message for Governor Beshear: "Provide the needed funding to the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System in the 2014-16 Budget."

I would appreciate an email from you telling me how many calls your local RTA made to the Governor's Office. Advise if you have any questions.

Serving Retired Teachers Since 1957

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