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Senator Harp  
Keep the Promise to Teachers

The governor's proposed budget completely eliminates the state's contribution to the retired teachers' health insurance fund for the next two years shortchanging the fund by over \$70 million. This puts teachers' retired health insurance fund in serious jeopardy.

The reduction in the state's contribution to the health fund will negatively affect its long-term solvency. Active and retired teachers have been paying into the health fund with the understanding that it will be there for them when they retire.

Active teachers make the largest contribution to the retired teachers' health insurance fund — contributing 1.25% of salary annually. In 2012-13, contributions from active teachers of over \$45 million will be deposited into the health fund.

The state should keep its promise to teachers and continue to fund the retired teachers' health insurance fund.

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