

The governor's budget proposal, H.B. 6350, section 21, would adversely affect all CT retired and active teachers. I consider this an emergency situation because this time Malloy's proposal is to withhold the state's contribution for two years. That would save the state \$70 M but it would cost teachers \$70 M because his proposal includes requiring our health care fund to pay the state's contribution. The state does not put money into our fund; the teachers do. Because the benefits would remain the same and there is no rise in teacher contributions or premiums, MOST active and retired are not even aware that their health Care Fund is about to be depleted at an alarming rate. They elected you to serve in their best interests and trust you to do so. If this were to pass, our fund would be in serious trouble in the VERY near future.

This is not the first time our health care fund has been hit. Under Governor Rell, the state failed to contribute for two years in a row, saving the state about \$60 M and costing the fund the same amount. Last year the governor and legislature cut the state's contribution from 1/3 to 1/4, AND had the federal reimbursement known as the RDS (retiree drug subsidy) for the TRB drug plan count as part of the state's contribution for the first time. So last year's maneuvers cost the health care fund about \$19.5 M. Prior to last year's legislation change, the RDS counted as part of the health fund's contribution. The depletion of our Health Care Fund is on steroids. Please intervene and stop this travesty.

With a critical eye on the situation, I cannot help but wonder if there is an effort to cripple our health Care Fund so that it disappears in a few years. That would mean that many of the active teachers who have in good faith contributed tens of thousands of dollars into it will not be able to benefit from it when they retire. This would truly be a crime.

Please do not balance the budget on the backs of teachers, retired and active. Do not hit our fund five out of six consecutive years. I beseech you to reject the governor's proposal on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration and hard work.

June Pinkin

Hartford Federation of Teachers Retiree Chapter President