

From: "We Are One Illinois" <info@weareoneillinois.org>
To:
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:31:31 AM
Subject: Oppose the Draft Conference Committee Proposal!



Friends,

Illinois politicians are at it again – trying to make unfair, illegal cuts to the hard-earned retirement benefits of public employees and retirees.

This time, the special conference committee on pensions has put together [a new, draft plan](#) that cuts pensions as deeply as House Speaker Michael Madigan's Senate Bill 1. (Remember SB 1? [Click here](#) for a refresher.)

A vote on the draft plan is possible during the legislature's fall veto session – scheduled for October 22-24 and November 5-7.

It's time to fight back.

[Call your state representative and senator right now](#) and tell them to oppose the conference committee's draft plan. It's the same as the Speaker's SB 1 – unfair and unconstitutional.

[Click here to call](#) or use our toll-free hotline at 888-412-6570. Be sure to speak to both your House and Senate lawmaker – we need to keep up the pressure in both chambers.

[What's in the committee's draft plan?](#) The same pension-slashing approach as the Speaker's SB 1!

At this point, the plan includes:

- 1. The devastating Half-CPI “Diet” COLA cut.** This cut replaces the 3% compounded cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) with a COLA that only keeps pace with half the inflation rate. This “Half-CPI” COLA means pensions will always lose value to inflation *by design*, and senior citizens won’t be able to keep up with rising living expenses. The Half-CPI COLA cuts pensions essentially as deeply as SB 1.
- 2. Long COLA holidays of up to five years.** On top of the Half-CPI “Diet” COLA cut, the plan mandates COLA holidays of up to five years – again, similar to SB 1. These long holidays further erode pension values and harm retirement security.
- 3. A cap on the amount of salary that earns a pension.** This cap ignores the mandatory overtime worked by many public employees, especially those with physically-demanding, high-risk professions.

These details may still change, so keep up to date by watching our website. [Click on this link for more information](#), including our informational fact sheets on the current elements of the proposal.

Protect the hard-won retirement security of public employees and retirees across Illinois – act now.

[Make two calls today – call your state representative and your state senator toll-free at 888-412-6570. Tell each of them you oppose the conference committee’s draft plan to slash pensions and any plan not supported by We Are One Illinois.](#)

Thank you for being an active member of our coalition – today and in the past. Your efforts have stopped destructive pension legislation to this point – and we can do it again, together.

- We Are One Illinois

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