

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE SENATE

DATE

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

On behalf of the _____ Retirement System, and its _____ thousand/million public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries, I am writing to express our support for the Pension Coverage and Portability Act (S. 741), sponsored by Senators Charles Grassley, Bob Graham and other members of congress. This comprehensive, bipartisan proposal would strengthen the retirement savings programs of public employers and their employees, and **we strongly urge [if they are a co-sponsor: thank you for] your support and co-sponsorship of this important legislation.**

S. 741 would remove existing barriers between various types of retirement savings plans so that employees may have a better opportunity to manage and preserve their retirement savings when they switch jobs. In addition, it would simplify plan administration, enhance distribution options, and restore increased contribution and benefit limits to encourage and strengthen retirement savings.

In particular, some of the key provisions would:

- Permit funds from 457 and 403(b) plans to be used to purchase permissive service credits in public sector defined benefit plans, as is currently permitted from other defined contribution plans.
- Allow rollovers of retirement benefits between and among 457, 403(b) and 401 plans, and IRAs, when employees switch jobs;
- Provide much needed clarity, flexibility and equity to the tax treatment of benefits and contributions under governmental deferred compensation plans;
- Restore benefit and compensation limits that have not been adjusted for inflation and are generally lower than they were fifteen years ago; and
- Repeal compensation-based limits that unfairly curtail the retirement savings of relatively non-highly paid workers.

These proposals would help employees in our system build their retirement savings, especially those who have worked among various public, non-profit and private institutions. We appreciate the support that you have shown on past public pension issues and are hopeful you will have similar interest in this comprehensive, bipartisan legislation. The provisions of this bill are extremely important for public employees in _____. **We ask that you please work for the enactment of these proposals in tax legislation this year.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at _____.

Sincerely,