



Stand Up for Oregon Seniors and Middle Class Families

Vote No on Senate Bill 857

Due to Wall Street misdeeds that led to the 2008 economic crisis, all public and private pensions for millions of Americans have suffered significantly. As a result, here in Oregon, we are faced with having to clean up the mess made by bad-behaving investment banks and others who abused our financial system.

We recognize the Legislature is in a difficult position in trying to identify enough revenue to support schools, health care, public safety and services to seniors and the vulnerable. At the same time, we believe that the budget should not be balanced on the backs of our seniors, educators, nurses, firefighters, corrections officers, and other front-line workers.

Senate Bill 857 unfairly puts the entire burden of funding our schools and other vital services on middle class families and seniors on a fixed income.

Oregonians who have worked hard and played by the rules their whole life should not have to retire into poverty and then have to rely on taxpayer-funded services for the care they need. After decades in the workforce and contributing directly to the health of the community, we owe our seniors nothing less.

Senate Bill 857 is unconstitutional.

A proposal very similar to Senate Bill 857 has already been thrown out by the Oregon Supreme Court as a violation of basic contract law (*Strunk v. PERB*, March 8, 2005). The courts have said loud and clear that a promise is a promise and this proposal directly violates existing contracts. This proposal will cost tax payers millions of dollars to litigate a question that has already been answered.

Seniors and middle class families have already sacrificed.

Let's remember - seniors, educators, nurses, firefighters and other front-line workers have already sacrificed \$800 million to fund our schools and other services with the passage of Senate Bill 822. It is unconscionable to continue to balance the budget on the backs of retirees on a fixed income and middle class families.

SB 857 fails to make everyone pay their fair share.

Oregonians would like to see their elected leaders pursue new revenue from those with the ability to pay with the same enthusiasm that they've gone after seniors and teachers.

Rather than ask for more from educators and retirees, we need to ensure that everyone pays their fair share and that profitable corporations and those with the ability to pay have some skin the game.

We urge you to Vote No on Senate Bill 857.