

PERS Retirees contributing:

Every possibility is being examined to help reduce the black hole that is the PERS UAL. Very likely all public employers that depend on state dollars will reduce employees, reduce hours, or reduce pay. Classes will be larger, school days reduced and critical support services removed. And, private businesses and taxpayers will be asked to pay more to plug the gap.

The single entity/group not being allowed to contribute is the PERS retirees themselves.

Might we develop a way to allow these retirees to help reduce the UAL shortfall? The offer must be **voluntary, not a guilt trip.** Retirees did not make the rules and they did not break the rules. They did their jobs and retired. **Errors in management were made, but not by the retirees.** Non-sustainability was evident for several sessions through both D and R majorities and multiple Governors.

My thought is that a retired PERS member would be allowed to voluntarily decline X percent of their monthly retirement for a set period of time - say one year - by signing a prescribed form. The amount declined would be used to reduce the unfunded liability. (I don't believe there is a way to consider this a contribution since the retiree would not receive the dollars.)

I have no idea if such an idea would attract contributors. I also have no way to know how much of a dent in the liability a one percent, for example, decline by retirees could make. Perhaps the only way to discover the value would be to introduce a bill - in my name if that is the quickest way.

Another thought is that it might help long term to define a Public Employee. Detractors love to point at the retired football coach getting \$30,000 per month from PERS. This was possible because his buyout was paid over time and laundered through a public payroll system. University football and basketball are part of the entertainment industry, not public employment, and should be treated as such.

Thanks for reading, Sincerely,

Ron Adams, West Linn (former State Representative and I would be a one percenter.)

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