

RE: Pension Reforms as Part of the State Budget

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I ask that the final budget agreement contain pension reforms that make Tier 6 look more like Tier 4. These needed changes would help greatly with recruitment and retention of state employees, as well as provide a general sense of fairness.

Tier 6 retirement for state workers hired after 2012 has provided much lower benefits to new workers and is often mentioned as one of the main reasons why workers leave state service. Now that the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement plan is nearly fully funded and the state has a budget surplus, changes need to be made to encourage state service, not discourage it.

Improving the current Tier 6 plan would go a long way toward encouraging employees to remain in state service, provide fairness to existing staff and encourage prospective employees to choose public employment. A secure, dignified retirement is one of the most attractive benefits of state employment and should be reinstated this year.

As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to reform the state's pension program to provide equity for current state employees in the final state budget agreement. Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
