

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)
National Education Association (NEA)
National League of Cities (NLC)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
National Association of State Auditors Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
National School Boards Association (NSBA)
International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR)
National Conference of State Social Security Administrators (NCSSSA)
National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA)
National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)
National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)
National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)

April 24, 2013

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sensenbrenner:

In the 112th Congress, you cosponsored legislation known as the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA). While we understand and respect your interest in addressing issues surrounding the solvency of public sector pension funds, the twenty-one national organizations listed above, representing public employees, public employers, and pension fund administrators, are united in our view that PEPTA is imprudent and unnecessary. We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you and your staff to further discuss public pension systems, ongoing reforms and conditions we believe make federal legislation like PEPTA unwarranted.

Public pension accountability, funding, structures and reporting have undergone much reform and modification over the last decade. The Government Accountability Office stated this in a March 2012 report, "State and Local Government Pension Plans: Economic Downturn Spurs Efforts to Address Costs and Sustainability." State and local governments have continued to make changes to fortify their retirement systems.

The GAO report also documented that the exhaustion dates cited in the PEPTA summary materials are "not realistic estimates" of the true financial condition of state and local retirement plans. Nevertheless, the legislation has been reintroduced in the 113th Congress, along with the same misleading information.

PEPTA does not protect employee benefits, save costs or result in more transparency. It is an inappropriate Federal mandate that imposes costly regulation and threatens to tax state and local government bonds.

We are hopeful your schedule permits an opportunity to further explore and constructively discuss state and local pension systems and the PEPTA legislation. Please have your staff contact any of the individuals listed below. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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