

Dear Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

Thank you for representing me in the North Dakota legislature. Please oppose closing the NDPERS retirement plan to new hires and do the right thing by keeping the word of previous legislative bodies when they agreed to pay their share of the funding shortfall needed to bring the NDPERS plan to long-term stability.

I would like to take this moment to say that I am proud to have served my whole career providing quality interpretation and education to citizens where I was living. I am a recently retired North Dakota State employee. I worked for the State Historical Society of North Dakota from August 1975 to February 1984, and then from August 2009 to June 2022. It has been a honor to serve North Dakota citizens during both of these stints. Between them I worked for Virginia State government, Minnesota State government, and the National Park Service.

I am able to volunteer to deliver programming and support for the State Historical Society and North Dakota Studies because my pension helps to make my time available. This is important to me now and was important to me before my retirement because I could look forward to sharing my expertise with younger incoming staff who would be professional and proud to be working for our Citizenry. It becomes more and more difficult to recruit and retain professional and proud staff without quality long-term benefits that they deserve.

If you have questions for me, I would be happy to have you contact me at Erik Holland, 222 West Avenue C, in Bismarck or [esholland@aol.com](mailto:esholland@aol.com), or 701 516-6847.

*Erik Holland*