



**WILLISTON PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION**  
**I.A.F.F. Local 3743**

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chairman Austen Schauer  
House Government and Veterans Affairs  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Schauer & Members of the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the membership of the Williston Professional Firefighter's Association, I ask that you and the members of your committee oppose House Bill 1040 and House Bill 1039. This bill terminates future enrollees to the "main plan" portion of the ND PERS retirement system and transition new employees to a defined contribution plan. Although many of the members are an active part of the public safety plan of ND PERS, there are many administrative staff members of fire departments who do not qualify for this plan. Fire departments do not operate solely on their own. To function adequately they often rely on support from other governmental departments and agencies to whom would be directly effected by this change.

The current system in place provides a benefit to public employees that is no longer seen in the private sector. This benefit is one of few benefits that sets public serve apart and allows for recruitment and retention of good employees. The nature of government work demands conservative fiscal oversight to do the most good for the citizens we serve at the lowest cost. This often results in public sector jobs have less lucrative wages and benefits as compared to the private sector.

Please oppose these two bills and explore an alternative means to preserving the ND PERS system.

Fraternally,

Chris Mahoney  
President  
I.A.F.F. Local 3743