

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2239
Senate State and Local Government Committee

Madam Chairman and members of the committee. We are Larry and Cheryl Stockert and are retired state employees. We began our careers with the state of North Dakota with education and experience that would have provided better compensation in the private sector.

Prior to our accepting positions with the state, we conducted an analysis and determined a better fit for us was state employment. This was due primarily to the retirement plan benefits.

We rely on our state retirement pensions for our daily expenses and count on receiving them for our lifetimes. The pension payments we currently receive are a significant part of the employment contract we have with the state of North Dakota.

To close the current retirement plan will place our future retirement benefits at risk. As we have read Senate Bill 2239, our understanding is that the retirement plan will become funded appropriately. In addition, and equally important, is that North Dakota taxpayers would be in line for a significant tax savings.

Please vote YES on Senate Bill 2239.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Larry and Cheryl Stockert