



## COALITION FOR SECURE RETIREMENT - MICHIGAN

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“Michigan seniors have already been hit by a new tax on their pensions. Now legislators want to increase what retirees pay for their health insurance, which they should have funded all along,” stated John Olekszyk, President of the Coalition for a Secure Retirement.

The proposed changes to school employees’ retirement benefits in what Olekszyk termed “ the aptly named SB **1040**” claim to solve the funding problems of the system but merely shift these costs to current and future school retirees. “When legislators recently modified state employees’ pension benefits, at least they spared people who have already retired and are living on fixed incomes,” said Olekszyk, who retired as a teacher from the Roseville School District in 2000.

The legislation particularly hits hard lower-income school employees, according to CSR, because it eliminates the provision in current law that requires lower contributions for employees whose annual income is \$15,000 or even lower. “Michigan just reduced pension benefits for school employees in 2007 and 2010. We can’t continue to erode the pension benefits of people who help educate our children.”

*CSR is a coalition of school and state retiree and employee organizations. For questions or more information, please contact Todd Tennis on behalf of CSR at 517-372-0860.*