

# Senator Ryan McKenna

## Helping Our Retired Educators

### 22nd District



Dear Friend,

I am writing you to highlight some legislation I have sponsored that will affect education in our state. I know that education is one of Missouri's most valuable resources and I understand the integral part that teachers play in educating the students that will be our future leaders and teachers.

As a teacher, you are aware of the importance of your public benefits, and I am sure you keep a close eye on any changes that might be made to the system. I

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I know that you count on these benefits to help you once you have retired from a career in education. Unfortunately, there are some retired teachers that struggle to make ends meet.

These are the very teachers and personnel that fought to get the teacher retirement benefits that are now available. Many of these individuals were making less than half of what a current teacher is paid when they retired and are now receiving a pension of less than \$1,500 a month.

The situation is especially tight for teachers that retired before 1986. These teachers were not eligible for Medicare upon their retirement, and are now trying to afford healthcare costs as well as necessities such as grocery bills and housing payments. It is hard to imagine living on less than

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\$1,500 a month and trying to afford healthcare costs. In fact, I am amazed that they can even get by. This dire situation is why I am sponsoring Senate Bill 1042, which would provide for these retired teachers. The bill would help some of Missouri's older retired educators with the least retirement benefits. The bill would apply to retired educators and public school

personnel who are age 75 or older and are no longer receiving cost of living increases because they have been in the system for more than 20 years. The legislation would allow Public School Retirement System members to receive each month an additional \$5 for each year of service. Members of the Public Education Retirement System would receive each month an additional \$3 for each year of service.



#### Crunching the Numbers

**Under Sen. McKenna's legislation, a retired teacher who worked for 10 years would receive an additional \$50 a month. Other public school personnel who worked for the same amount of time would receive an additional \$30 a month.**

Concerns have been raised that this important increase for these retired teachers could lead to increases in monthly contributions to the retirement system for current teachers. However, this would only cost the average teacher 36 cents a month (the exact amount would depend on the years of service a teacher has with a maximum of 45 cents per month). For no more than \$5.50 a year, you would be helping a fellow teacher.

This is an important piece of legislation that can make an important difference in the lives of the teachers that helped to make Missouri schools what they are today. Many of these educators and personnel are those who inspired us to pursue our goals. **If you support this legislation, please let me know by sending back this mailer or visiting my website at [www.senate.mo.gov/mckenna](http://www.senate.mo.gov/mckenna).**

*Ryan McKenna*

Senator Ryan McKenna