

Sample Phone Script to Call State Legislators

Establishing a positive relationship with your Texas legislators and their staff members is vital to the success of TRTA's advocacy. Please take the time to call your State Senator and State Representative at least once per month during legislative session. TRS-Care is a top priority for many of our members this session. The phone scripts below can guide you during your telephone conversations with legislative offices. For assistance with discussing the TRS pension fund, please see the fact sheet on page 3. Use the toll-free Legislator Hotline (1.888.674.3788) to help you reach your State Senator and State Representative at the Capitol from now through May. Always be courteous! If asked a question you cannot answer, please refer the legislator or staffer to TRTA at 1.800.880.1650.

Are you a retiree who is younger than 65?

Here is your messaging to Senators and Representatives:

I am a Texas public education retiree and your constituent. I am deeply concerned about TRS-Care. I know that the program is in need of \$1.1 billion in additional funding due to the rising cost of health care.

I cannot afford a plan with a deductible as high as \$7,150 per year. Going on the federal exchange to buy health care is not a reasonable or affordable option for me. These were the options suggested in the interim report on TRS-Care. The report suggests the \$1.1 billion TRS-Care shortfall be carried by retirees, and we cannot afford it! Cost-shifting the entire deficit to retirees is not a long-term answer to TRS-Care's funding problems.

I know changes and hard sacrifices are ahead. But there is a better solution, and I am willing to do my part!

Senator/Representative, I ask that you please work with TRTA to find that solution. Retirees cannot bear the entire cost on their own. TRTA and Texas' public education retirees will support your efforts to find a balanced solution.

Are you a retiree who is 65 or over?

Here is your messaging to Senators and Representatives:

I am a Texas public education retiree and your constituent. I am deeply concerned about TRS-Care.

As you know, I live on a fixed income. The Legislature has helped me maintain my quality of life by not increasing my TRS-Care premiums. In the past 15 years, there has been one cost-of-living increase approved for TRS retirees, and not every retiree received it.

When my health care premiums are stable, I can manage my living expenses on my fixed income. Now, I am hearing that my health care costs could increase a lot, based on an interim report about TRS-Care. I also hear that all Medicare retirees would switch to Medicare Advantage, which does not work for everyone.

Unfortunately, the report suggests shifting the entire \$1.1 billion TRS-Care shortfall to retirees, and we cannot afford it! Cost-shifting is not a long-term answer to TRS-Care's funding problems.

I know changes and hard sacrifices are ahead. But there is a better solution, and I am willing to do my part!

Senator/Representative, I ask that you please work with TRTA to find that solution. Retirees cannot bear the entire cost on their own. TRTA and Texas' public education retirees will support your efforts to find a balanced solution.