



Dear TRTA Members,

As your Governor, I want you to know that I understand issues that are important to retired educators.

During the last regular Session, TRS-Care faced a large budget shortfall. In order to sustain TRS-Care for current and future retirees, I supported and signed legislation that changed the program's benefits structure and provided additional funding to further support the program and reduce the shortfall.

I also signed legislation aimed at keeping TRS-Care solvent by making changes to the benefit structure. Over the past two legislative sessions, I have supported putting more than \$1.2 billion in supplemental funding into TRS-Care to lessen the burden on you and other education retirees.

But I know that your health care costs and premiums increased. TRS-Care needs much more attention.

The Governor is responsible for appointing the TRS Board. I will continue to appoint qualified individuals who are dedicated to preserving and growing the TRS Pension Trust for your benefit. This is important because 95% of K-12 school employees in Texas do not participate in Social Security, meaning that their TRS annuity is their only source of retirement income.

I know that many TRS annuitants have not received a pension increase since retiring. In 2013, approximately 200,000 retirees received a 3% cost-of-living raise if they retired before September 1, 2004.

I very much value those who work or have worked in education. You are an important part of the fabric of Texas. I appreciate your dedication and years of public service. Thank you for your many past, current, and future contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas