



**TRTA Member Contact Information**

Name

Address, City, State and Zip Code

**Dear Representative**

Name

**Sincerely, TRTA Member**

Signature



# 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## STATE ISSUES

### ★ TRS Pension Fund

#### **ACTION ITEM: Preserve the funding plan enacted during the 86th Legislature (SB 12)**

- Keep the TRS pension fund on the path to actuarial soundness
- Ensure SB 12 phase-in plan raising contribution rates to 8% for state/educators, and 1.8% for ISDs by 2022
- The Legislature should require all employers including higher education to contribute the full employer contribution amounts including salaries below the statutory minimum

#### **ACTION ITEM: Secure a financial structure capable of providing a future COLA**

- Average TRS monthly annuity is \$2,096
- Half of all TRS annuitants receive less than \$1,800 per month
- Members retiring during the last 16 years have never had a permanent increase in their annuity

### ★ TRS-Care

#### **ACTION ITEM: Maintain contribution for TRS-Care retiree health insurance**

- Vulnerability to COVID-19 necessitates affordable, easy access to doctors and care
- Avoid increased premiums and cuts in services or benefits
- Study and design long-term funding structure. Funding per TRS retiree should be equal to the Employees Retirement System (ERS) funding per retiree
- Allow one-time re-enrollment to TRS-Care

### ★ Sunset Review

#### **ACTION ITEM: Adopt TRS Sunset Staff Report and additional TRTA recommendations**

- Promote a member-focused and friendly culture at TRS
- Direct TRS to designate an FTE position as a TRS member ombudsman focused on the needs and issues of TRS members, including the impact of COVID-19
- Direct TRS to simplify and clearly define reasonable rules for return-to-work and part-time employees
- Create appeals process for disallowed health care claims

## FEDERAL ISSUES

### ★ Social Security

#### **ACTION ITEM: Ensure earned Social Security benefits are paid to retirees**

- Reform WEP and GPO current formulas that unfairly penalize Texas retired educators
- Retirees' traditional supplemental income has been impacted by the pandemic (substitute teaching, bus driving)
- Prevent mandatory Social Security as a resolution to the inequity of WEP and GPO