



MRTA
MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Missouri Retired Teachers Association Delivers Petition Opposing Detrimental Pension Fund Legislation

Jim Kreider, MRTA Executive Director delivers signature petition to Governor Nixon and Senator Lamping opposing Pension Bills.

Jefferson City, Missouri, March 28, 2013 - On March 25th, Jim Kreider, Executive Director of the Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA), delivered a petition with 29,998 signatures from MRTA members, supporters, and families to Governor Nixon; Senator John Lamping (Saint Louis County – Ladue), Chairman of Pensions Committee; and members of the Senate Pensions Committee. This petition is asking that four pieces of legislation detrimental to education and retirees' pension benefits, which are being pushed by Senator Lamping, be defeated or set aside.

"It was a total surprise," commented MRTA Director Jim Kreider regarding the number of signatures and support gathered. I was expecting a maximum of 5,000 signatures. "I think this outcry from teachers, staff and retirees was phenomenal! It is my hope the Senators will listen to their voters."

Missouri currently ranks 48th in the nation in teacher salaries. Missouri's decent and hard-earned retirement benefits for educators are the number one incentive for experienced educators to stay in the classroom. The children of Missouri benefit the most from experienced educators providing a quality public education stated Kreider.

The Missouri taxpayer is being provided a world class education at a bargain price. Missouri is ranked 41st in per pupil spending while Missouri schools are doing good work. Over the past 20 years in Missouri, ACT scores and high school graduation rates have gone up, while the dropout rate has steadily declined. Active educators and retired educators are a big reason why we have such good public schools.

MRTA is a grassroots not-for-profit association consisting of over 22,000 members with 151 chapters or units statewide. The mission of MRTA is to serve and not to be served. Our members strive to uphold and improve the integrity, value, and missions of our public schools so that all school personnel may live healthy, vital lives and be secure economically, socially, and professionally in retirement.



- Jim Kreider, MRTA Executive Director delivers signature petition to Governor Nixon opposing Pension Bills.

MRTA, a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit corporation, is a grassroots advocacy association with 19,700 members. MRTA is independent, nonpartisan, and does not endorse political candidates.

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