

COUNCILMAN
SAMUEL D. ZURIER
55 DORRANCE STREET, SUITE 400
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
EMAIL: sdz@om-rilaw.com
Office: (401) 861-2900 ext. 105



COMMITTEES

Finance
Vice Chair

Ordinance

Education Sub-Committee
Chairman

City of Providence, Rhode Island

November 15, 2011

The Honorable Gordon Fox
Speaker, Rhode Island House of Representatives
323 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Speaker Fox:

As a fellow Rhode Islander and Providence resident, as well as the husband of a State employee, I wish to express my appreciation for your leadership in advancing the cause of pension reform in our State. The State pension reforms contained in the current legislation approved by the House Finance Committee represent a fair balance between the interests of current and retired State employees on the one hand, and those of taxpayers and other beneficiaries of State services on the other. I urge you to support the retention of the savings in the current package as the bill continues through the legislative process, as the problem will only get worse over time if we do not solve it today.

In my role as a your representative on the Providence City Council, I regret that the current legislation does not address the issue of municipal pensions. As you may know, the Providence pension system is in much weaker condition than the State's, and it is difficult to see how we will be able to solve the problems in either Providence or any of the other cities and towns across across Rhode Island without the benefit of more tools provided by the State. From my outsider's perspective, the current climate in the State House presents a golden opportunity to address the entire issue of pensions, rather than limiting our efforts to the State system. With that said, I must defer to your assessment of what is attainable. The State reforms do bring some modest financial benefits to our City, as well as provide ideas, albeit without the tools to implement them. With that in mind, I would certainly thank you if the House enacts State reform without addressing the municipal issue at this time, provided that there is a commitment to address the municipal issue in the near future on an equally strong basis.

Thank you for your service, and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Sam D. Zurier", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

COUNCILMAN
SAMUEL D. ZURIER
55 DORRANCE STREET, SUITE 400
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
EMAIL: sdz@om-rilaw.com
Office: (401) 861-2900 ext. 105



COMMITTEES

Finance
Vice Chair

Ordinance

Education Sub-Committee
Chairman

City of Providence, Rhode Island

November 15, 2011

The Honorable Rhoda Perry
Rhode Island Senate
312 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Perry:

As a fellow Rhode Islander and Providence resident, as well as the husband of a State employee, I wish to express my appreciation for your leadership in advancing the cause of pension reform in our State. The State pension reforms contained in the current legislation approved by the Senate Finance Committee represent a fair balance between the interests of current and retired State employees on the one hand, and those of taxpayers and other beneficiaries of State services on the other. I urge you to support the retention of the savings in the current package as the bill continues through the legislative process, as the problem will only get worse over time if we do not solve it today.

In my role as a member of the Providence City Council, I regret that the current legislation does not address the issue of municipal pensions. As you may know, the Providence pension system is in much weaker condition than the State's, and it is difficult to see how we will be able to solve the problems in either Providence or any of the other cities and towns across Rhode Island without the benefit of more tools provided by the State. From my outsider's perspective, the current climate in the State House presents a golden opportunity to address the entire issue of pensions, rather than limiting our efforts to the State system. With that said, I must defer to your assessment of what is attainable. The State reforms do bring some modest financial benefits to our City, as well as provide ideas, albeit without the tools to implement them. With that in mind, I would certainly thank you if you help the Senate to enact State reform without addressing the municipal issue at this time, provided that there is a commitment to address the municipal issue in the near future on an equally strong basis.

Thank you for your service, and for your consideration.

Sincerely,