

YOUR 16 PERCENT RAISE

TO: MARYLAND STATE LEGISLATORS

You don't get it. You think we don't understand. You think we are stupid? You are telling us this election year to trust you. Trust that you will do the right thing after the election. Trust that you will fix the problem that you created with our prescription drug coverage. Trust you that the State Retiree who pays \$400 a year for prescriptions will not have to pay \$10,000 a year with Medicare D in 2019. But, how can we?

In 2003-2004 we did not receive raises, step increases or COLA, but our required contributions for health care increased. Has this happened to you? I think not.

In 2005 we received a maximum of increase of \$752 for the year. This represented a flashlight with a very weak battery. We were still reeling from two years of no increases.

In 2006, you gave a COLA of 1.5% but increased our mandatory contributions to our pensions to 3%. Obviously that year was a bust for us.

In 2007 you gave us a raise up to 2% but increased our mandatory contributions to our Pensions to 4%. Do the math. We did.

In 2008- 2009, you gave us a 2% increase in salaries, but increased our mandatory contributions to the employee pension to 5%. The numbers don't add up.

In 2010-2014 instead of raises, we received furlough days that reduced our salary by 2.6%. Are you starting to see a picture here?

And then you add insult to injury in 2013 when you gave yourselves a **16% pay increase**. Yes, I said 16%. We would like to vote ourselves a raise after eleven years of salary losses. Now you have taken away our prescription drug coverage. Enough is enough. You cannot be trusted.

Did you as a state delegate or senator tell the retirees by letter or phone about your 16% raise? We had to wait seven years to find out about the loss of our drug coverage. What other hidden gems are located in the budgets of previous years? We have to ask because you can't be trusted. The worst part is you campaigned with a straight face and when you are asked about these issues we received a form letter. We pay you – you work for us. Why not balance the budget by cutting your salaries, reducing your health coverage, modifying your pension? Until that happens we cannot trust what you say.

Its' funny that the State of Maryland want people to view a government job as a career with good long-term benefits. You can't. We were always promised good benefits and now you have reneged on that promise. And the sad part about all this is that you don't seem to care.

FROM THE DESK OF KEN FITCH ON BEHALF OF MARYLAND STATE RETIREES.