

January 22, 2025

TO OUR FELLOW COLLEAGUES:

The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) is a not-for-profit organization of retiree representatives from thirteen public four-year institutions of higher education across the State of Ohio. The organization works to promote and advocate for the welfare of Ohioans who have been employed by and retired from our state institutions. As president of OCHER, I would like to submit our concerns and views on the current state of affairs of STRS Ohio.

The next few months will be exceedingly important to the Ohio State Teacher's Retirement System (STRS). More than 537,000 active and retired teacher members receive or will receive benefits and health care from STRS. Administrators and staff work to be good stewards of the system. All will be affected by the elections of individuals to an STRS Board which is currently in turmoil. Also critical are the appointment of an executive director to a post which has lacked a permanent leader for more than a year and the replacement of a chief investment officer and other senior staff following recent resignations.

Looking forward with good will, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees expresses its support for the following:

* Intergeneration fairness between current retirees and teachers who will retire in the future.
* A reduction in the number of years active teachers must work for full pension benefits.
* Increases in cost-of-living adjustments but only if such increases do not cause serious damage to the present and future health of the fund.
* An increase in employer contributions to the system.

We hope the STRS Board will support STRS administrators and staff as they work to maintain the financial stability and integrity of STRS. We hope others throughout the state will agree with these objectives and work to support the financial stability and integrity of STRS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via phone at 234-855-5995 or email at mca1@zoominternet.net.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Anderson

2024-26 OCHER President

Youngstown State University Retiree