

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a(n) active/retired educator from \_\_\_\_\_ . I have/retired with \_\_\_\_\_ years of experience. (Add something personal about your educational experiences.)

I am writing to ask that you oppose **House Bill 26** authored by Representative Barry Ivey. This bill proposes amending the Constitution to limit the guarantee of retirement benefits for state employees [Art. X, Sec. 29 (A) and (B)] to certain types of benefits beginning 2020. However, if amendments are introduced to this bill in conference it could affect protections for both active and retired educators.

Research shows states that shifted to hybrid plans from defined benefit plans failed to pay down the retirement debt and offered a lower benefit to educators statewide. The passage of this legislation would further endanger future retirees' benefits by removing Constitutional protection to a portion of that lowered benefit.

Louisiana has adopted retirement reform measures that are paying down the retirement debt, and at the same time, providing a modest benefit to its retirees. Please do not put this modest benefit in peril by removing full constitutional protection.

This legislation could also create a serious adverse effect on teacher recruitment and retention in Louisiana.

Please oppose House Bill 26. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Regards (or closing of your choice),