



## **2019 MRTA Legislative Platform**

**“MRTA is independent, non-partisan and does not endorse political candidates.”**

### **SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

1. MRTA will use all available means to restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees has reduced twice in the past seven years. MRTA supports the restoration of the COLA to pre-2011 levels for PSRS/PEERS of MO retirees.
2. MRTA will work to protect the Missouri public pension retirement plans as defined benefit plans rather than defined contribution plans.
3. MRTA supports a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for the retirees of the PSRS of the City of St. Louis and the PSRS of Kansas City, MO.
4. MRTA will support the current independent governance and decisions of the Boards of Trustees of the following public education retirement systems: PSRS/PEERS Retirement System, PSRS of Kansas City, MO, and PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
5. MRTA will work to protect/maintain access to healthcare coverage for public school retirees through the school system from which they retired as is mandated by Missouri law requiring the same premium cost and the same coverage as the active public school employees.
6. MRTA will support new legislation that allows the “Divorce Pop-Up” legislation (HB 304 of 2017 – Pike (R) District 126) to apply to all PSRS/PEERS members regardless of when they divorced.

### **STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

1. MRTA will support “equal and adequate” public school funding through full funding of the foundation formula for all public schools as mandated by the Missouri Constitution.
2. MRTA will work to protect/maintain the Missouri state income tax exemptions for public education retirees that MRTA was instrumental in obtaining in 2007 (HB444).
3. MRTA will oppose vouchers, education tax credits, education scholarships, or any other use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
4. MRTA will oppose the statewide expansion of charter schools.
5. MRTA supports accountability for existing charter schools equal to that of public schools.

6. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce school funding such as Taxpayers Bill Of Rights (TABOR) or further revenue reductions that jeopardize public school funding.
7. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.
8. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.

### **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO MRTA**

1. MRTA will support legislation to repeal/modify the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Governmental Pension Offset) provisions of Social Security.
2. MRTA will oppose mandatory Social Security for new educator members of PSRS of Missouri.
3. MRTA will oppose privatization of Social Security.
4. MRTA supports affordable healthcare to promote financial security for all.
5. MRTA will oppose vouchers, education tax credits, education scholarships, or any other use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
6. MRTA will oppose the expansion of charter schools.
7. MRTA supports accountability for existing charter schools equal to that of public schools.