



Providing Benefits for Life

December 14, 2011

George Schloegel, Chairman
PERS Study Commission
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Chairman Schloegel:

As chairman of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) Board of Trustees and member of the PERS Study Commission, I thank you and each of the members of the Commission for the service, time, and diligence you put forth toward the improvement of the state's public retirement system. The report you have issued, while I may not agree with all of it, shows that you endeavored to accomplish the task set before you by Governor Haley Barbour.

All Commission members are to be commended for their hard work given this massive undertaking in such a short time. I, respectfully, would like to remind all involved that PERS serves a wide variety of people in this state—from doctors and lawyers to teachers and road workers—and is vital in the ability of public employers to recruit and retain a quality workforce to maintain our state's infrastructure. Furthermore, this retirement system is just one facet of the overall public service employee compensation package that includes other benefits such as health care and life insurance; therefore, any recommendations for change should be viewed in that context.

Again, thank you for your work. We now turn to the Legislature, as the policymakers for this nearly 60-year-old system that serves hundreds of thousands of individuals across our state. I have confidence that they will view any recommendations in a thoughtful manner, remembering that pensions are important, not only to those who spend their careers in public service, but to the state of Mississippi, as well.

Sincerely,

Bill Benson

cc: PERS Study Commission Members
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Pat Robertson, Executive Director

Pat Robertson
Executive Director

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