



California Public Employees' Retirement System
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January 28, 2014

Senator Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

Thank you for addressing the critical issue of retirement security in our country. Your leadership and focus on the issues of retirement security will help further a much needed discussion about the importance to every American of planning, working and saving for a financially sound future.

According to a 2013 report by the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS), more than 38 million American households have no retirement assets and their collective retirement savings deficit ranges from \$6.8 to \$14 trillion. The report used the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances to analyze retirement plan participation, savings, and overall assets of Americans. When all households are included, the median retirement account balance is \$3,000 for all working-age households and \$12,000 for near-retirement households.

As you know, CalPERS has a long legacy of providing retirement and health benefits to public employees in California for over 80 years now. As the largest public employee pension system in the nation, we are proud to serve our 1.6 million members, those who serve the rest of California every day of their careers. We support defined benefit retirement plans that provide sound income replacement in retirement through shared employee/employer responsibility, pooled and professionally managed investments and lifetime benefits. Additionally, CalPERS supports federal policies that expand opportunities for workers to have access to a pension plan that would provide guaranteed retirement security based on the core principles of a defined benefit retirement plan.

Once again, we thank you for your leadership on these issues and we will be happy to share our experience and expertise to help achieve our mutual goals.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (916) 795-3829 or your staff may contact Robert Udall Glazier, Deputy Executive Officer for External Affairs, at (916) 795-3850 or via email at Robert.glazier@calpers.ca.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


ANNE STAUSBOLL
Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Robert Glazier, CalPERS External Affairs