



Florida House of Representatives
Democratic Office

Franklin Sands
Democratic Leader

Geraldine F. Thompson
Democratic Leader Pro Tempore

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CONTACT: Mark Hollis
(850) 488-9622

**FLORIDA HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEMBERS
APPLAUD STATE SENATE REJECTION
OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS' RADICAL ATTACK ON RETIREES**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Florida House Democratic Caucus members today applauded budget negotiators in the Florida Senate for rejecting an outlandish House Republican attempt to slash a crucial health-insurance subsidy for thousands of retirees, including firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public servants throughout Florida.

House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) offered the following statement:

“Florida’s public employees are the backbone of our communities and most are badly underpaid. It is appalling that House Republican leaders would even to tempt to disrespect these public servants by denying them their promised benefit earned over many years. In effect, this proposal would have amounted to a new tax on these public servants.”

Currently, employees retired from the Florida Retirement System receive \$5 for each year’s service, up to \$150 a month toward their health insurance. The subsidy amounts to \$1,800 a year for an employee with 30 years of service, or \$3,600 a year for a married couple retired from public service.

The changes sought by extremist Republican leaders in the Florida House and rejected by Florida Senate budget negotiators would have permanently eliminated the subsidy despite House Republican arguments that the proposal was being considered only because of current state revenue shortfalls.

State Representative Alan Williams (D-Tallahassee) offered the following statement:

“I am pleased that state workers and other retirees have won this battle and I hope that they now feel some relief. Their livelihoods and retirement incomes should never be threatened. A promise made by the State of Florida should be a promise kept.”

State Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee) called the decision "a victory for public service retirees." She said the decision to reject this flawed proposal “shows public employees and other retirees the respect and fairness they so richly deserve.”

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