

## Public University Presidents and Chancellors

---

December 2, 2013

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Governor of Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

As presidents and chancellors of the state's public universities, we write to express our profound disappointment in and our opposition to the proposed pension legislation scheduled to be discussed in the General Assembly Tuesday morning.

For the past three years we have strongly advocated for public pension reform. We have been active and thoughtful participants in pension reform discussions and proactively endorsed a plan to reform the State University Retirement System in fiscally sound and responsible ways. We continue to believe that sensible reform is essential.

However, certain features of the plan scheduled to be discussed on December 3rd in the General Assembly, particularly the approach to COLA and the cap on pensionable salaries, will have a severe impact on the retirement security of faculty and staff in the state's public universities. They will adversely affect our collective ability to recruit and retain the people we need to educate the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs, provide health care for the state's neediest citizens, and build new startup companies and create jobs through university research. The bill will be detrimental to higher education in Illinois and ultimately to the overall economy of the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors  
Listed alphabetically by name of university

Dr. Wayne Watson  
President, Chicago State University

Dr. William L. Perry  
President, Eastern Illinois University

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon (Convener)  
President, Governors State University

Dr. Timothy Flanagan  
President, Illinois State University

Dr. Sharon K. Hahs  
President, Northeastern Illinois University

Dr. Doug Baker  
President, Northern Illinois University

Dr. Glenn Poshard  
President, Southern Illinois University

Dr. Rita Cheng  
Chancellor, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe  
Chancellor, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Dr. Robert Easter  
President, University of Illinois

Dr. Paula Allen-Meares  
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Susan J. Koch  
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield

Dr. Phyllis Wise  
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Dr. Jack Thomas  
President, Western Illinois University

cc: Julie Smith