

Dear Rep./Senator _____

I am writing to you to oppose the Joint Finance Committee actions on an amendment to the state budget (Budget Modifications #999) that **changes the composition of the Joint Survey Committee On Retirement Systems**. I urge you to vote against ALL provisions of this amendment BUT especially the proposals effecting WRS.

The committee is responsible for reviewing any changes to WRS. It is currently composed of Senate and Assembly legislators of both parties plus representatives of the public, the Attorney General, The Department of Employee Trust Funds, and the Insurance Commissioners office. The committee would become entirely *appointed* legislators.

This is a “solution looking for a problem.” The current committee structure has been working. Why are changes being proposed?

This is not good public policy procedure. These proposals are not fiscal issues. Why is it in the budget? If these changes have merit they should be a separate bill and go through the normal legislative process.

This proposal removes the technical input of other agencies from the process. It eliminates the input from the Governor's office through the appointment of a private citizen. The wording is unclear, but it appears minority party representation would also be eliminated.

This proposal is undemocratic. We need more participation by citizens and stakeholders in government not less. The current committee has broad democratic representation (with the exception of NOT having a representative of WRS participants!). Why change it?

This proposal opens the door for political manipulation and corruption. The ruling party would have *complete control* over reviewing and recommending changes to the WRS. It reduces broad public oversight of a significant public trust fund (\$100 billion).

One of the major strengths of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) has been its isolation from political manipulation. The WRS has had strong public and program participant oversight through advisory boards and other mechanisms. Independent management under the Department of Employee Trust Funds and the State of Wisconsin Investment Board have worked well for Wisconsin taxpayers and the 572,000 WRS participants and retirees. **WRS is rated as one of the best public retirement programs in the nation. Why mess with it?**

In addition to changes in the Joint Survey Committee, All of the Budget Modifications amendment (#999) should be rejected.

Thanks you