



June 16, 2025

Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 243

Honorable Michael Rodrigues
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 212

Honorable Ann-Margaret Ferrante
House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 238

Honorable Joanne M. Comerford
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 410

Honorable Todd M. Smola
House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 124

Honorable Patrick M. O'Connor
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 419

Dear Conference Committee members,

We the undersigned union leaders and officers, who represent the thousands of public educators and their families in 219 school districts across the state, are writing to ask you to include a fair fix for RetirementPlus as part of the final version of the FY 2026 budget.

In 2001, many educators throughout Massachusetts were left out of the RetirementPlus program through no fault of their own. This past spring, the House included language in its version of the budget that would provide educators with a one-time opportunity to buy back into the program. A similar bill was passed into law in 2022, which allowed those hired after July 1, 2001, who had prior non-teaching service in other retirement systems to be given a new opportunity to join RetirementPlus.

There is now a clear path forward for fixing this decades-old problem for teachers hired before July 1, 2001, and we are reaching out to you today to ask that you please include a fair fix for this RetirementPlus problem in the final version of the FY26 state budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We appreciate your commitment to educators and public service, and we look forward to celebrating your leadership in helping resolve this problem for our members.

Sincerely,

Irene LaRoche, President
Amherst Pelham Education Association

Dana Altobelli, President
Ashburnham-Westminster Teachers' Association

Kristen Scully, President
Ashland Educators Association

Kerry Conway, President
Athol Teachers Association

Erik Berg, President
Boston Teachers Union

Carolyn Crimmins, President
Cohasset Teachers' Association

Stephanie Madden, President
Duxbury Teachers' Association

Henry DeMello, President
Education Association of Freetown-Lakeville

Eileen Ryan and Tracy Simmons, Presidents
Education Association of Norwell

Christine Mulrone, President
Framingham Teachers Association

Rachel M. Rex, President
Gloucester Teachers Association

Kevin Wall, President
Hatfield Teaching Association

Jaime Cutone, President
Holliston Federation of Teachers

Maura Jones and Heather Weber, Presidents
Hull Teachers Association

Christopher Bailey, President
Mahar Teachers Association

Andrea Egitto, President
Northampton Association of School Employees

Ree Migliozi, President
Palmer Teacher's Association

Claire Brennan, President
Pioneer Valley Regional Education Association
Leyden, Northfield, Warwick, and Bernardston

Stacey Twombly and Joanne Hildreth, Presidents
Rockport Teacher's Association

Viva Butler, President
Shutesbury Education Association

Lisa Galer, President
Union 38 Educators Association
Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately

Amber Boucher, President
Ware Teacher's Association

Michael Murphy, President
Weymouth Educators' Association

Keith Michon Jr, President
Fall River Educators' Association

Devin Thompson, President
Frontier Regional Education Association
Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately

Tara Cloutier, President
Greenfield Education Association

Jacqueline Beaupre, President
Hingham Education Association

Rebecca Abate, President
Hopkinton Teachers Association

Alyson Bull and Karie Neal, Presidents
Leverett Education Association

Keith Stefanek, President
Manchester Essex Teachers Association

David Mastroianni, President
Orange Elementary Teachers Association

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*Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New
Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware, and Warren*

Gayle Carvalho, President
Quincy Education Association

Kate Martin and Katherine Pescatore, Presidents
Scituate Teachers Association

Jefferson Wood, President
The Education Association of Natick

Kerri Glanville, President
Union 61 Teachers Association
*Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, and
Wales*

Jennifer Medeiros, President
Westport Federation of Teachers

Jessica Tang, President
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts

Brant Duncan, Secretary-Treasurer
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts

Max Page, President
Massachusetts Teachers Association

Deb McCarthy, Vice President
Massachusetts Teachers Association

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Abington Education Association

Mike Balulescu, President
Acton Boxborough Education Association

Lisa Carvalho, President
Acushnet Teachers Association

Scott Balawender, President
Adams Cheshire Teachers Association

Cindy Yetman, President
AFT Amesbury

Nikki Ruffo, President
Algonquin Regional Teachers Association
Northborough and Southborough

Matt Bach, President
Andover Education Association

Julianna Keyes, President
Arlington Education Association

Joseph Amaral, President
Attleboro Education Association

Kathryn Luby, President
Auburn Education Association

Susie Joyce, President
Avon Education Association

Marianne Zimon, President
Ayer Shirley Regional Education Association

Brooke Styche, President
Barnstable Teachers Association

Nicole Williams, President
Bay Path Teachers Association

Elizabeth Cowles, President
Bedford Education Association

Fran Frederick, President
Belchertown Education Association

John Sullivan, President
Belmont Education Association

Michelle Bringle, President
Berkley Teachers Association

Thomas Roy, President
Berkshire Hills Education Association

Andrea Sherman, President
Beverly Teachers Association

Dave Adams, President
Billerica Federation of Teachers

Michael Norton, President
Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational
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Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville,
Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge*

Kathy Jones, President
Blackstone-Millville Regional School District
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Ryan Kiff, President
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*Avon, Braintree, Canton, Holbrook, Norwood,
Randolph, and Westwood*

Theresa Clifford, President
Bourne Educators Association

Shannon Estella, President
Boxford Teachers Association

Truong Dinh, President
Braintree Education Association

Tasha Cordero, President
Bristol-Plymouth Teachers Association

Stacy Macdonald, President
Brockton Education Support Professional
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Sean Musselman, President
Burlington Educators Association

Lauren Mahan, President
Canton Educators Association

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Central Berkshires Educators Association
*Becket, Cummington, Dalton, Hinsdale, Peru,
Washington, and Windsor*

Kathryn Anderson, President
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Colette Klein, President
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Kathleen Murphy, President
Danvers Teachers Association

Rachel Dudley and Amy Lydon, President
Dedham Education Association

Kevin Riordan, President
Douglas Teachers Association

Léonie Glen, President
Dover-Sherborn Educators Association

Kristin Nordin and Abby Steiner, Presidents
East Longmeadow Education Association

Amy M. Meehan, President
Easton Educators' Association

Melissa Verdier, President
Educational Association of Worcester

Melissa Duarte, President
Fairhaven Educators Association

Donna Grady, President
Franklin Education Association

Paul Conroy, President
Bridgewater-Raynham Education Association

Kimberly Gibson, President
Brockton Education Association

Justin Brown, President
Brookline Educators Union

Dan Monahan, President
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Karen Levy, President
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Katy Sullivan, President
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Andrew Fall, President
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Joseph Silva, President
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Michelle E. Dunn, President
Dennis-Yarmouth Educators Association

Rebecca Hefele, President
Dracut Teachers' Association

Curt Shippee, President
East Bridgewater Education Association

Jessica Falcon, President
Easthampton Educators Association

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Education Association of Plymouth and Carver

Kimberly Auger, President
Everett Teachers Association

Tom Gill, President
Foxboro Education Association

Demetrios Tyros, President
Gardner Education Association

Karyn McKeon, President
Grafton Teacher's Association

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Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, and North Andover

Kelly Haggerty, President
Greater New Bedford Educators Union

Laurie Heaney, President
Halifax Teachers Association

Damian Konkoly, President
Hampden Wilbraham Education Association

Jennifer Mills and Steven Henderson, Presidents
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Hathorne Teachers Federation

Michelle Gajda, President
Hawlemont Teachers Association

Nick Cream, President
Holyoke Teachers Association

Whitney Nielsen, President
Hudson Education Association

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Keefe Tech Educators Association

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LABBB Collaborative Education Association

Joshua David Hall, President
Lee Education Association

Robin Strizhak, President
Lexington Education Association

William Miskinis, President
Littleton Educators Association

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Ludlow Education Association

Michelle Tisdell, President
Granby Educators Association

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Greater Lowell Teacher's Organization
Lowell, Tyngsboro, Dracut, and Dunstable

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Groton Dunstable Educators Association

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Haverhill Education Association

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Holbrook Education Association

Lisa R. Bertonazzi, President
Hopedale Education Association

Alicia Thomas, President
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Lawrence Teachers Union

Kim Barry, President
Lawrence Teachers Union

Steven McCaughey, President
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Colette Kuchel, President
Lincoln Educators' Association

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Longmeadow Education Association

Sheila O'Neil, President
Lynn Teachers Union

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Elton Thomas, President
Marlborough Educators Association

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Masconomet Teachers Association

Marissa Hughes, President
Mattapoissett Educators Association

Joshua Meczywor, President
McCann Faculty Association

Megan Morrison, President
Medway Federation of Teachers

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Mendon Upton Regional Teachers Association

Nicholas Molinari, President
Milford Teachers Association

Brendan Bonn, President
Milton Educators Association

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Monson Educators' Association

Erick Eiben, President
Narragansett District Education Association

Karen Hepinstall, President
Nauset Educations Association

Thomas Nickerson, President
New Bedford Educators Association

Michael Zilles, President
Newton Teachers Association

Michelle Darling and Mary Scanlon, Presidents
North Adams Teachers Association

Nicole Reminder, President
North Attleboro Federation of Teachers

Deb Gesualdo, President
Malden Education Association

Nicole Boussy, President
Marion Teachers Association

Sean DeBettencourt, President
Martha's Vineyard Educators Association

Suzanne Pettengill, President
Mashpee Teachers' Association

Douglas Luther, President
Maynard Education Association

Anthony Geehan, President
Medford Teachers Association

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Melrose Educators Union

Kara Blatt and Susan Pierce, Presidents
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Millis Teachers Association

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*Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley,
Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne*

Page Martineau, President
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Kevin P. Keaveney, President
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Bolton, Lancaster & Stow

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Needham Education Association

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Newburyport Teachers Association

Tracey Trombert, President
Norfolk Teachers Association

Juliette Darmon, President
North Andover Teachers Association

Damian Sarrette, President
North Brookfield Teachers' Association

Catherine Stepinski, President
North Middlesex Regional School District
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Ashby, Pepperell, and Townsend

Amy Weber, President
Norton Teachers Association

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Peabody Federation of Teachers

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Groveland, Merrimac, and West Newbury

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Michelle Ervin and Jane Chapin, Presidents
Revere Teachers Association

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Shrewsbury Education Association

Marge Cardozo, President
Somerset Teachers Association

Maria Murray, President
Southbridge Education Association

Elizabeth Cauley,
Southampton Teachers Association

Tracy Little-Sasanecki, President
Springfield Education Association

Craig Beaulieu, President
Stoughton Teachers Association

Barbara Mantere, President
North Reading Education Association

Jody Smith, President
Norwood Teachers Association

Renee Bock, President
Pembroke Teachers Association

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Pittsfield Educational Administrators Association

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*Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree,
and Oakham*

Margaret M LaBate, President
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Sharon McGonnigal, President
Rockland Education Association

Kevin Fontanella, President
Saugus Educators Association

Rebecca Fuller, President
Sharon Teachers Association

Jessica Drew, President
Silver Lake Education Association
Kingston, Plympton, and Halifax

Dayshawn Simmons, President
Somerville Educators Union

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Southeastern Teachers Federation

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Association
*Alford, Egremont, Monterey, Sheffield, and New
Marlborough*

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Melissa Morabito, President
Sudbury Education Association

Rebecca Bucklin, President
Swampscott Education Association

Denise R. McGurik, President
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Conner Bourgoin, President
Tewksbury Teachers Association

Jeanne Lemmond, President
United Educators of Pittsfield

Brian Carter, President
Uxbridge Teachers Association

David Cuzzi, President
Walpole Teachers Association

Deanna Semple, President
Wareham Education Association

Sarah Sontag, President
Wayland Teachers Association

Darbie Pettengill, President
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Patricia Desmarais, President
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Catherine Staunton, President
Whittier Regional Educators Association
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Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury*

Belinda McConnell and Christy Nickerson,
Presidents
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Frank Murphy, President
Swansea Educators Association

Carolyn Campbell, President
TECCA Union

Sarah Scruton, President
Triton Regional Teachers Association
Newbury, Rowley and Salisbury

Paul Georges, President
United Teachers of Lowell

Linda Sasso, President
Wachusett Regional Education Association
Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling

Ryan Hoyt, President
Waltham Educators Association

Janelle Lacy, President
Watertown Educators Association

Katherine Taylor, President
Wellesley Educators Association

Matthew Wroth, President
Westfield Education Association

Dave Peterson, President
Weston Aides Paraprofessionals Association

Kate O'Reilly, President
Westwood Teachers Association

Sheryl Norris, President
Winchester Education Association

Jodi Fownes, President
Wrentham Educators' Association

CC: The Honorable Ronald Mariano, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate