



## Tell Albany the **truth** about **pensions**.



*“ I retired in 2007 with 34 years of teaching elementary students. I loved preparing students for their futures. My pension covers our expenses but little is left over. New York just added a new tier. If we downgrade pensions further, how will our state attract, and keep, the best and the brightest in teaching? ”*

— **Jeanne Bennett**  
Mohawk Teachers Association / Herkimer County

The economic downturn has impacted the entire state, including the members of the public workforce. Like every member of the middle class, public employees have had to sacrifice and do more with less since the global economy faltered beginning in 2008.

- Public employee retirement benefits have been reduced under the new pension tier enacted in 2010, Tier 5. The Tier 5 reforms will save New York taxpayers \$35 billion over the next 30 years.
- State employees have negotiated new contracts that include wage freezes, pay lags, dramatic increases in health care premiums, unpaid furloughs and other wage and benefit reductions, saving millions in tax dollars.
- Local government and school district employees have taken the same freezes and reductions as their State employee counterparts to reduce local taxes; many even voluntarily opened up their contracts to agree to these cutbacks in an effort to avoid layoffs.
- Despite these sacrifices, thousands of public employees including teachers, nurses, police officers and fire fighters across the state are standing in the same unemployment line as private sector workers.

**Despite the facts, the Governor has proposed **slashing pension benefits for middle class retirees** through the creation of a new pension plan called **Tier 6**.**

Call the Governor, your State Senator and Assemblymember  
and give them the facts about pensions.

**Tell them to say **NO to Tier 6**.**  
**(877) 255-9417**