

**DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR R+ LETTER
FROM LOCAL UNION LEADERS Conference Committee members
Group Letterhead???**

June XX, 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 local union leaders and officers, who represent the thousands of public educators and their families 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,

Jane Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

John Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

John Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

Jane Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

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John Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

Jane Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

Jane Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

John Doe, President
LOCAL Name and/or school district

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

