

# 2015 ORTA Legislative Guidelines

## LEGISLATION

1. Continue positive working relationships with legislators and their staff to secure support for retiree issues.
2. Continue supporting the five (5) Ohio Public Pension Systems as separate entities.
3. Oppose any efforts to borrow funds from the pension systems; or to delay or divert payments due to the systems.
4. Oppose legislated mandates of investments and divestments for the retirement systems.
5. Support bills that would provide state income tax exemption for public pensions.

## HEALTH CARE

1. Continue participating in the Health Care and Pension Advocates for STRS (HPA).
2. Support the continued funding of the STRS Health Care Stabilization Fund.
3. Monitor and be prepared to participate in state and national health care discussions for all active and retired educators to enable them to maintain access to affordable health care.

## STRS OHIO

1. Maintain positive working relationships with STRS board members and staff.  
Keep them informed of ORTA and its missions and positions.
2. Support continuing a COLA for retirees.
3. Support the defined benefits pension plan.
4. Monitor the effects of state and federal legislation on STRS Ohio and its members.
5. Continue working positively with the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) staff.
6. Maintain communication with staffs of the other systems and their retiree groups.

## COMMUNICATION

1. Maintain positive communication and collaboration with groups representing active and retired teachers; and other state and national groups (i.e. NRTA) who support retired teachers and their issues.
2. Support and promote the NRTA/AARP position that all Americans should have access to affordable, quality health care; along with pension security.
3. Encourage ORTA members to be informed and become pro-active in communicating with legislators and STRS board members and staff for retiree issues.
4. Keep educational organizations informed of ORTA, its missions and its positions.
5. Continue to maintain an ORTA web site ([www.orta.org](http://www.orta.org)) with appropriate links.

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Oppose expansion of statewide voucher plans.
2. Continue to work with the Coalition for Public Education in requesting fiscal and academic accountability for for-profit charter schools.
3. Support legislation that requires continuing research on charter schools and increases their accountability measures.
4. Monitor the effects of charter schools, alternative and on-line schools, and their impact on STRS and pension benefits.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Continue to oppose mandatory Social Security for public educators.
2. Continue to support repeal (or reduction) in the GPO/WEP (Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision) as a stand alone issue.

## REO-PAC (Retired Educators of Ohio-Political Action Committee)

1. Maintain a political action committee.