

Kitsap Sun

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Pension obligations put employees ahead of taxpayers

Letters

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I've been listening to the frustrations of the teachers on strike in Kentucky. It's just a matter of time before other states face the very same cries from their teachers.

Pensions are mostly funded by the hard working, tax paying citizens of each State. We know the cries of our teachers, union leaders and the lawmakers of Washington state. Yet lawmakers ignore the cries of homeowners facing back-breaking property taxes.

Almost every single job in education, from lunch ladies to custodians to teachers and support staff, along with high salaried Superintendents and their staffs. How many superintendents and staff are in Kitsap County alone, taking into account there is a superintendent for NK, SK, Bremerton and Bainbridge?

Perhaps it is time the unions and lawmakers sit down at the table and calmly discuss the dreaded subject of pensions. If we removed pension plans from private employees and switched to a 401K, then why is it not acceptable for public school employees? Take a look at how private companies have made the transition, with employees keeping accrued pensions up to a specific date, and transitioning to a 401K plan. All new hires are directly enrolled in a 401k.

Public pensions are unsustainable, and with COLAs and healthcare plans, taxpayers are being taxed out of homes! Most private pensions are fixed. There are no COLAs.

It's time to start looking at ways to cut taxes. Someone that has worked for 30-40 years and "played the game" right should not be taxed out of their home!

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