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## *Maryland Retired School Personnel Association*

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September 4, 2007

Dear Governor O'Malley:

I am writing you on behalf of the 15,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association regarding the \$1.5 billion "structural deficit" for the State of Maryland. Our members understand that this issue must be addressed, either in a special General Assembly session this fall, or during the 2008 General Assembly.

According to an article in the August 26, 2007 issue of the Baltimore Sun, several options are under consideration. We respectfully request that the option of shifting half of the funding for teacher retirement to local governments be taken off the table. There are several other options for solving the deficit crisis.

Our members are aware that the structural deficit must be addressed, and we realize there are no "easy solutions". However, we believe the State has a responsibility to continue to fully fund the Maryland Retirement and Pension System, and that shifting these costs to the local jurisdictions would create a crisis at the local level, and would be devastating for the retirement system.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Carol H. Webster, President  
Maryland Retired School Personnel Association