

# Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants

January 11, 2021

Senator Devin LeMahieu  
Room 211 South State Capitol  
Madison, WI

Dear Senator LeMahieu:

The Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants (WCOA) represents the nearly 220,000 retired state, local and university employees who, because of their prior employment with public agencies, are now receiving a pension from the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). In the last century, a bipartisan group of elected officials, local employers and public employees joined together to create what is today the most well-funded and best designed public pension fund in the country. Other public systems are looking to the WRS to find ways that they can improve their systems.

We are very proud of and thankful for the excellent administration of the WRS funds and want to be sure that it continues to operate as it has to date so that today's public employees can enjoy the same level of protection that we do. To assure that happens, we want to see that the Department of Employee Trust Funds (DETF), which administers the benefits for the WRS, has the staff and tools it needs to adequately administer and protect the funds.

DETF has requested three new FTE positions in their budget request - two cybersecurity positions and one data management position -- and has asked to convert three FTE project positions to permanent positions. The project positions were approved four years ago. The work has not gone away. It has only increased, and the positions should be made permanent.

As for the new positions, I think we only need to look at recent headlines about breaches of cybersecurity. DETF maintains very sensitive data about current public employees - including you -- and the 220,000 retirees. It is critical that DETF have the resources necessary to maintain security of our sensitive personal data. We ask that you approve all six positions and include them in your biennial budget to the Legislature. NO GPR funding is involved. These positions will be paid from the earnings on the funds.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert Schaefer, Chair  
Telephone 608 233-3738 Email [nannbob@chorus.net](mailto:nannbob@chorus.net)

## ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WISCONSIN COALITION OF ANNUITANTS

West Allis Retirees - DILHR Retirees - Epsilon Sigma Phi - AFSCME Retirees Chapter 32 - WI Professional Police Association Retired - DNR Retirees - Wisconsin Retired School District Administrators - Wisconsin Education Association Council Retired - Beloit Area Retired Educators Association - UW Eau Claire Emeriti Faculty - UW-Madison Retirement Association - Office of the Commissioner of Insurance - UW Milwaukee Retiree's Association - Bay Lakes United Educators/Retired - Wisconsin State Attorneys Association - Association of Career Employees - AFSCME Retirees SubChapter 52 - SWIB Retirees - WFT/AFT Retirees Retired Professional Fire Fighters of WI - Wisconsin Retired Corrections Personnel - State Engineering Association - Central Wisconsin Center Retirees - State Attorneys Association - DOT Retirees - Wauwatosa Employees Retirement Club - Wisconsin Retired Educators Association - Dodge County Area Retired Educators Association - Kettle Moraine Retired Educators