

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my presentation.

Two years ago, my brother Tom and I embarked on what we thought would be a short journey. We thought that once the constitutional authority, the Citizens' Committee, had spoken, that the Legislature would do the right thing and remove this law. However, legislative leadership, would have nothing to do with it.

As you well know, the Constitution gives legislative compensation authority to you, the Citizens' Committee. Without the knowledge of the Citizens' Committee, the Legislature ignored the Constitution and made Legislators the only part-time employees to receive full-time retirement benefits. For some individual legislators this is a more than a \$1 million more than the retirement benefits of their part-time counterparts.

Legislative leadership argues it would be unconstitutional to remove the law, though the Attorney General said that with the Citizen's Committee approval, it would be perfectly fine to remove the law.

In 2016, the Citizens' Committee requested the Legislature remove the law and, as a result, put legislators on equal footing with other employees for retirement benefits. The Legislature ignored your request.

We are not opposed to Legislators receiving fair compensation. Possibly, if legislative pay was increased, younger ladies and gentlemen would be more able and inclined to serve. However, for the Legislature to ignore the Committee's request and arbitrarily provide such generous benefits to a select few legislators is silly.

Madam Chairman we thank the Committee for the modifications to the 2016 Letter and are requesting the Committee modify the 2018 Letter and again direct the Legislature remove the law that provides them with full-time retirement benefits. This concludes my presentation.