



TIER 2 PENSIONS: THE FACTS

- **In 2010, the Illinois General Assembly created a “Tier 2” of separate, lower pension benefits for public employees hired after 2011**, over the opposition of a coalition of unions representing public sector workers.
- Since then, **benefits for newly hired workers with “Tier 2” pensions do not keep up with inflation**, meaning retirees can’t keep up with rising costs like grocery and drug price increases.
- **Many public employees cannot collect Social Security**, meaning if these retirements are too low they have no backup.
- **This problem was created by politicians failing to pay into the retirement system**, and it’s them we should be holding accountable rather than punishing workers.
- **We should guarantee retirement keeps up with the cost of living**, so that people who worked hard their whole lives for us can keep up with the rising costs of medications, groceries, and other essentials during their retirement.
- When a public employee works hard their whole career, **we should keep up our end of the deal** and make sure they can retire and afford to pay their bills.
- **Tier 2 pensions are unfair, inequitable, and immoral**, as they leave public employees with substandard retirement benefits that make it difficult to pay for necessities while also making it difficult for the state to attract new workers to essential roles.