

## **PFFA STOPS BRAZEN ATTEMPT TO TAKE AWAY PENSION BENEFIT**

**During the wee hours of the morning of July 1st, 3:30a.m. to be more specific, Senator Pam Gorman ( R ) Anthem pulled a sneak attack that could have damaged our pension system and taken away the D.R.O.P. benefit for current and future members.**

**Both the House and the Senate met all night to pass a state budget as well as other legislation before the end of the budget year in order to forestall state government having to shut down. During this rush Sen. Gorman advised members of the Republican Caucus that she had two amendments to the pension system bill (HB2327) that were simple technical changes. Technical bills or amendments are simple clean ups that cross the T's and dot the I's.**

**During the floor votes when amendments are attached to bills, she simply stuck in her destructive language without any of the Senators noticing until it was too late and the larger bill had been voted on and approved.**

**These two amendments completely changed the way that the system does business and would have made our PSPRS pension system ineffective and incredibly expensive. In short it would have sent PSPRS to financial ruin. The second amendment *would have ended the D.R.O.P. benefit for all future and existing members of PSPRS who were not already participating in this great benefit.***

**Your PFFA along with John Kaites our contract lobbyist**

leapt into action immediately in the middle of the night to prevent final passage of this incredibly damaging bill. First, we made it clear to other Republican Senators that they as well as us had been flat out lied to by Senator Gorman. Many of them are as furious as we are. More importantly, Mike, John and Eddie Smith met with the original sponsor of the bill, Representative Tom Boone ( R ) Glendale to get him to strip off those provisions in the House.

Representative Boone had no idea what Senator Gorman had been up to and committed to killing his own bill if necessary to protect the system and our members. Many thanks to Mr. Boone. As it turned out that was not necessary as the legislature adjourned the regular session for 2009 at 7:30 in the morning. The Governor has called the legislature back into special session to begin next Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> to further consider the budget. We will be watching closely.

Thanks to Mike Colletto, Eddie Smith and John Kaites for looking out for all of us in the middle of the night. We will continue to watch closely and fight for you the members.

Fraternally,  
Tim Hill