

Exhibit No. 6Date 4-12-13Bill No. HB 454

To: Members of Senate Finance and Claims Committee  
From: Charlene Suckow, Montana Retired Educators Association  
Re: Support HB 454

Mr. Chair and members of the committee for the record I am, Charlene Suckow, Secretary of Montana Retired Educators' Association (MREA). We stand in support of this HB 454 because we support our brothers and sisters in the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

It is extremely important to make PERS solvent for current and future generation of public employees. This bill asks more of employee and employers which make it a reasonable and sensible bill. However, we do recognize and disagree with the reduction in GABA. Public employees have earned their pension through years of service to our communities. They should not face pension reductions as out of pocket food, fuel, and healthcare costs keep climbing. A reduced GABA will only diminish their financial security.

MREA asks you to support a plan to make PERS solvent and hopes that a new agreement on the GABA can be made that does not reduce earned benefits for public employees.