



Retired Public Employees Association, Inc.

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Stanley Winter, President Michael B. Fitzgerald, Executive Director

July 5, 2011

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of NYS
Governor's Office
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Attn: Honorable Mylan L. Denerstein
Counsel to the Governor

Re: Senate 5558
Ten Day Bill

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the almost 40,000 members of the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA), I am recommending that you approve S.5558, introduced in the Senate by Senator Greg Ball and in the Assembly by Assemblyman Peter J. Abbate, Jr. at the request of the State Comptroller. This bill would conform the accidental death benefit and health insurance coverage provisions of the State's public pension systems to the requirements of the Federal Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008.

The purpose of this bill is to assure that New York's pension systems remain as qualified governmental pension plans within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code. Failure to qualify as governmental pension plans under the Internal Revenue Code would have negative consequences to the functioning and tax exempt status of the State's pension systems.

The cost of this legislation is negligible and for these reasons, RPEA supports its enactment. We request that you sign the bill into law upon its delivery to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley Winter
President