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ATPE Supports Providing Retired Educators 13th Check

*“Retirees still desperately need a permanent fix, but this is needed relief, nonetheless,”
says ATPE State President*

AUSTIN—The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)—the state’s largest educator association representing approximately 100,000 members across Texas—voiced its full support Friday for providing a thirteenth check for retired educators.

Senate Bill (SB) 7 by state Sen. **Joan Huffman** (R-Houston) and House Bill (HB) 85 by state Rep. **Glenn Rogers** (R-Graford) do not provide for a permanent cost-of-living increase for retirees, but the bill would provide for a one-time supplemental payment, or “13th check.” Importantly, SB 7 would pay for this one-time increase up-front instead of financing it through the pension fund.

“ATPE thanks Chair Huffman and Rep. Rogers working to get this legislation to the governor as quickly as possible,” said ATPE State President **Jimmy Lee**. “Our retirees still desperately need a permanent fix, but this is needed relief, nonetheless. ATPE encourages legislators to continue to work toward a rational system of automatic cost-of-living adjustments that will ensure Texas teachers are able to retire with dignity devoting their careers to the education of our children.”

The average retiree under the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) of Texas earns just \$2,118 a month. One third of retirees receive less than \$1,000 per month. Because they are ineligible for Social Security benefits, this represents the only retirement income most Texas educators have to live on.

About the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

Founded in 1980, ATPE is the leading educators’ association in Texas with approximately 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, and future, retired, and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for Texas’ five million public school students. | atpe.org

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