



# CAN YOU PUT A PRICE ON SERVICE?

- As of February 25, 2010, total fatalities are up 94%; gunfire fatalities are up 400% and traffic incidents are up 42% compared to 2009 statistics.
- Illinois ranks in the top 20 for states with high fatalities.
- According to the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2008, there were an estimated 4.9 million violent crimes committed in the United States, as well as an estimated 16.3 million property crimes.
- A total of 1,640 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of one death every 53 hours or 164 per year. There were 133 law enforcement officers killed in 2008, and 123 law enforcement officers killed in 2009, and **31 officers have already been killed in the first two months of 2010.**

*Much of the cost of overall retirement benefits is for either retiree health care benefits or to make up for contributions that were skipped in past years. Health care cost containment options, financing structures and benefit protections are entirely different from those of pensions, and mired in a debate over the nation's healthcare system. Moreover, health care benefits are likely to be adjusted in the coming years in cases where the cost is unsustainable.*  
-Pew Center on the States Report

## RETIREES' ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO BENEFIT FROM PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS.

Retirees' spend their pensions on utilities, mortgage payments, prescription refills or groceries, stimulating their local economy.

- According to the National Institute for Retirement Security, for fiscal year 2005-2006, Illinois' public pension benefits had a total economic impact of more than \$12.9 billion.
- Each taxpayer dollar invested in Illinois' public pensions supported \$5.62 in total economic activity, while each dollar paid in benefits supported \$1.50 in economic activity.
- EVERY industry in Illinois is supported by pensions. To decrease benefits, is to take money away from businesses that need it the most.

Reducing benefits for new hires, instead of paying what is owed -the unfunded liability- will appease the masses, but at what cost?

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