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We will get through this global pandemic by protecting what is important to us, making smart decisions, and keeping an eye on the future. That's exactly the type of mindset we will need to get through the financial fallout of this viral menace that has upended world financial markets and will have many municipalities searching for answers in our hard-earned pensions.

Cash-strapped government bodies will be pressured to find ways to meet their current payrolls and to provide basic services. They will almost certainly look at pensions, which are a major part of every municipality's operating budget. Before the coronavirus dust even settles, we can expect proposals to tax retirement benefits, reduce annual pension contributions, and growing support for a constitutional amendment to reduce benefits earned in the future.

The mission of the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association (IPPFA) is to protect the retirement futures and benefits of public employees and first responders. We've been doing just that for many years for your local pension funds, and now we invite you as individuals to join us in our fight to protect what's yours. Being an Individual Associate Member of the IPPFA opens the door for you to directly benefit from our legislative lobbying efforts and our financial planning and retirement training. You'll receive the latest, up-to-the-minute information about pensions through our electronic newsletter and several other benefits as well.

You have been first responders, the people who rush in to fight things like viral pandemics. You put your life on the line to protect your fellow citizens every day of your professional career. Your pension is not a gift. You earned it with your service and your payroll contributions. It is your money, your retirement security, and peace of mind for your loved ones. You dedicated your life to fighting for your neighbors' well-being. Now it's time to dedicate yourself to fighting for your own future well-being.

Please become an IPPFA Individual Associate Member today. It will be the best investment you can make to safeguard your future.

Sincerely,

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James M. McNamee IPPFA President

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