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MEMORANDUM

To: NYSUT Board of Directors
Local Presidents
PAC Coordinators

From: Andy Pallotta, Executive Vice President

Date: January 21, 2011

Re: Facts to combat myths on public pensions

With the New Year comes new versions of old attacks on our members: salaries, pensions and due process protections are all under fire in the arena of public opinion.

Negative and, in many cases, false statements surrounding public pensions are receiving unprecedented media coverage nationwide. To help combat the negative public perception of public pensions and to protect our member's hard-earned retirement security, NYSUT has produced a document that debunks many of the myths that are swirling around the issue under the cloak of "pension reform."

The information contained in the attached document is designed to help you deepen the public understanding of the pension system. It outlines how pensions are actually funded and shows that the public pension system will continue to have a positive impact on the overall health of the New York State economy.

Use these facts to reinforce the truth; public pensions have proven to be a good investment for taxpayers, governments, employees, and the economy. The forces who argue differently are misleading the public with short-term fixes and are ignoring the long-term impacts to taxpayers, retirees, and society in general.

I hope you find this document useful as we work together to combat the ever increasing attacks our pensions are falling under. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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