

2024 Legislative Accomplishments



The Social Security Fairness Act has been signed into law!

Our advocacy has been a driving force for repeal for more than two decades.

CalRTA is your voice in pension protection and retirement security!



Spearheaded Successful National Efforts to Repeal the WEP and GPO

- CalRTA President Susan Dixon was a member of an **exclusive nationwide stakeholders' group** called the "Kitchen Cabinet" who advocated under the authors' guidance for full repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) as the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. **CalRTA was the only West Coast association in this group which included many national organizations.**
- President Dixon was the **Vice Chair of a Grassroots Task Force** made up of members from various public service organizations who advocated for H.R. 82 and organized a National Summit and Rally.
- CalRTA successfully maintained an active Legislative Alert System, **sending over 300 legislative alerts**, which helped garner 330 cosponsors for H.R. 82 (Graves - LA) and 62 for SB 597 (Brown-OH).
- President Dixon was **invited to attend the signing of H.R. 82** in Washington, D.C. on January 5, 2025.
- **Repeal of WEP/GPO is now Public Law – 118-273.**

Successfully Promoted Retiree Priorities

Health Care and Healthy Aging | Bills signed into Law:

- AB 2207(Reyes): Will increase representation from older adults on a number of key California Boards and Commissions.
- AB 2258 (Zbur): Protects individuals from being charged cost-sharing requirements for items or services that are needed for preventive care services and screenings, including cancer screenings.
- AB 2270 (Maienschein): Expands what continuing education and professional development doctors and therapists can take to include menopausal mental and physical health.
- AB 2297 (Friedman): Allows emergency doctors to find discounts for patients, prohibits a hospital from considering monetary assets of a patient to determine eligibility, and prohibits a hospital or emergency doctor from using liens on property to collect unpaid hospital or emergency physician bills, and collection agencies.

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CalRTA 2024 Legislative Accomplishments cont.

- AB 2620 (Bains): Reduces the number of members on the Commission on Aging and requires them to have experience in the field of aging, including health, behavioral health, and housing.
- SB 1354 (Wahab): Requires long-term health care providers under Medi-Cal to provide services to Medi-Cal members with the same care and scope provided to others.
- SB 1406 (Allen): Adds the right for a resident in a residential care facility for the elderly to request, refuse, or discontinue a service, eliminates the exemption from rent control for their facilities and prohibits annual fee increases for residents from being higher than 10 percent or the annual Consumer Price Index for the previous year, except for rate increases due to a change in the level of care.

Public Education | Bills signed into Law:

- Proposition 2/AB 247 (Muratsuchi): Created a \$10 billion bond to build schools with \$8.5 billion going to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion for community colleges. These funds would be able to be used for both new construction and modernization.
- SB 956 (Cortese): Reauthorized K-12 districts to use the design-build delivery method when constructing and designing school facilities.

Retirement | Bills signed into Law:

- AB 1997 (McKinnor): Simplified reporting requirements regarding creditable compensation and creditable service towards addressing challenges and concerns by CalSTRS employers and members to provide reporting consistency.
- AB 2134 (Maratsuchi): Allows teachers and classified employees who change school districts to keep their earned sick leave.

View detailed CalRTA bill positions on the CalRTA website:

https://calrta.org/wp-content/uploads/CalRTA-Legislative-Update_Chaptered-Measures_102024.pdf

Provided a Statewide Voice for Retired Teachers

- **CalRTA organized and chaired** the statewide Retired Educators Coalition, which consists of organizations that advocate on behalf of retired teachers and/or school employees.
- **Represented retired teachers at all meetings of the Teachers' Retirement Board**, which oversees CalSTRS. Also participated in over 20 meetings with CalSTRS leadership regarding implementing current legislation, creating future legislation, and identifying issues that need to be addressed.
- **Participated in dozens of meetings with CalSTRS staff** to support and coordinate activities regarding legislation, regulations, and investment updates.

California Retired Teachers Association

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