

## Support Maryland's Hard-Working Teachers: Improve Their Pensions and Fully Fund the GCEI

After putting in 30 years of service, a public school teacher in **Maryland** can expect to receive only **36%** of their final annual salary as their pension. A teacher in **Louisiana** will receive **71%**. The **median** percentage of all states is **57%**. Maryland teachers tie for the lowest pension in the whole country. We must change this situation **now**.

Furthermore, approximately **\$17 million** of Montgomery County's Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) for Fiscal Year 2007 still has not been funded. The GCEI is a component of the Thornton Funding Commitment. Montgomery County is amongst the jurisdictions most adversely affected by this lack of funding.

I respectfully call on all Maryland Legislators to improve Maryland's teachers' pensions to at least the median amount (57%) of all states. This should be done retroactively to the inception of the Maryland TPS program. I also respectfully call on our legislators to fully fund the GCEI commitment for the Fiscal Year 2007.

The quality of our teachers determines the quality of education our children receive. If our best teachers move away to other states because they cannot afford to retire in Maryland, our children's education will suffer.



S. Saqib Ali  
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