# Proposed Resolution to Call Upon Democratic Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the School Board to Preserve and Strengthen the Government Employee Pension Plan

WHEREAS over the last several years, the Republican Party and its right wing think tanks have targeted federal, state and local government workers' salaries and pensions for drastic cuts;

WHEREAS the Republicans hope to deflect the rightful concern over increasing economic inequality by scapegoating government workers;

WHEREAS the right wing regularly uses shoddy research to argue that government workers are overpaid and over-benefited;

WHEREAS county public officials often use austerity arguments to attack the salaries and pension plans of county workers despite the fact that Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation;

WHEREAS the 2016 Democratic Party Platform commits to creating and protecting "good-paying jobs that support the middle class."

WHEREAS Fairfax County's nurses, social workers, librarians, firefighters, police officers, sheriffs, administrative assistants, teachers, mental health workers, skilled trades and maintenance workers provide the county with outstanding services, schools, and public safety as well as beautifully maintained parks and facilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee calls upon Democratic Party members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the School Board to defeat all attempts to degrade the current pension plan and to commit, instead, to strengthen it.

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Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors has proposed six changes to its defined benefit retirement plan, which will reduce guaranteed benefits to newly hired public employees. The changes will cut retirement benefits to new hires by 20-25%, demonstrating a lack of investment in the workforce and endanger the future economic health of the county.

The effort is being supported by Democratic Chairman Sharon Bulova and resembles Donald Trump's and American Legislative Exchange's (ALEC) national campaign to eliminate defined benefit retirement plans, diminish worker's rights, undermine unions, privatize government services and weaken the middle class.

Fairfax County's public employees are first responders, public school support personnel, social workers, librarians and others who provide excellent services that are the foundation of one of the five wealthiest counties in the United States.

On September 26, 2017, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee unanimously passed a resolution calling upon all eight Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to preserve and strengthen the county employee retirement plan and oppose Chairman Bulova's proposed changes, but the 8-2 Democratic-controlled Board of Supervisors chose to continue evaluating changes.

Last week, Tea Party Republican and Springfield District Supervisor, Pat Herrity publicly applauded Democratic Board Chairman, Sharon Bulova, for championing these Trump-like policy changes to county employee's retirement plans, which are set for a vote in late June 2018.

The 2016 Democratic Party Platform states:

# Ensuring a Secure and Dignified Retirement

We will defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get priority and protection when pension plans are in distress. Democrats will also fight to enact legislation to make sure that the earned pension benefits of Americans will not be cut, and will pay for it by closing tax loopholes that benefit millionaires and billionaires.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED hereby call upon the Democratic Party to stand with us in support of working families, our progressive values, our public employees, and we further call upon Democratic Chairman, Sharon Bulova, and all eight Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the standards of the Democratic Party by rejecting all changes to Fairfax County's current retirement benefits plan for all future county hires.

Fairfax Education Association Fairfax Coalition of Police Local 5000 Fairfax County Federation of Teachers IAFF Local 2068 NOVA Labor SEIU Virginia 512

I, Delegate Mark Sickles, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

Signed,

Delegate Mark Sickles

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I, Delegate Kathleen Murphy, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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Delegate Kathleen Murphy Virginia's 34<sup>TH</sup> District

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I, Marcus Simon, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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I, Delegate Jennifer B. Boysko, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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Signed,

Delegate Jennifer B. Boysko Virginia House of Delegates Date

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Party

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES RICHMOND

DAVID L. BULOVA POST OFFICE BOX 106 FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA 22039

THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: EDUCATION GENERAL LAWS AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

June 22, 2018

Dear Chairman Bulova and Members of the Board:

As constituents and fellow elected officials representing thousands of Fairfax County employees in the 37<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> districts, we write to encourage you to maintain the County's present retirement system for both current and future employees.

We applaud and share the commitment expressed by the majority of Board members to a defined benefit system. Similarly, defending the defined benefit program of the Virginia Retirement System from further erosion has been and will continue to be a priority for us in the House of Delegates.

We also recognize the prudency of periodically examining County programs, including the retirement system. However, while the current exercise to review the County's retirement system has resulted in a number of potential changes, we would encourage you to reject those changes and maintain the present system. One of the great strengths of the County is its retirement system, which provides a reasonable and stable retirement for our hard working public servants who already struggle to live in one of the most expensive markets in the nation. Although the proposed changes are aimed at future employees, the net effect – albeit deferred – will be that these individuals will receive fewer benefits and enjoy a reduced quality of life.

Fairfax County's nurses, social workers, librarians, firefighters, police officers, sheriffs, administrative assistants, teachers, mental health workers, skilled trades and maintenance workers provide the County with outstanding services. We ask that the Board recognize their contributions by protecting the retirement system, both now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with the Board on this and other issues affecting our community

Sincerely,

David L. Bulova 37<sup>th</sup> District

Eileen Filler-Corn 41st District

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I, Senator Richard Saslaw, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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I, Alfonso Lopez, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

Signed,

Alfonso H. Lopez

Member, Virginia House of Delegates

49th District

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I, Delegate Elizabeth Guzman, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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I, Delegate Karrie K. Delaney, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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I, Delegate Kaye Kory, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

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# Ensuring a Secure and Dignified Retirement

We will defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get priority and protection when pension plans are in distress. Democrats will also fight to enact legislation to make sure that the earned pension benefits of Americans will not be cut, and will pay for it by closing tax loopholes that benefit millionaires and billionaires.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED hereby call upon the Democratic Party to stand with us in support of working families, our progressive values, our public employees, and we further call upon Democratic Chairman, Sharon Bulova, and all eight Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the standards of the Democratic Party by rejecting all changes to Fairfax County's current retirement benefits plan for all future county hires.

Fairfax Education Association Fairfax Coalition of Police Local 5000 Fairfax County Federation of Teachers IAFF Local 2068 NOVA Labor SEIU Virginia 512

I, \_\_Delegate Mark Keam\_\_\_\_, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

Signed,

Manx 

Mark Keam

Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors has proposed six changes to its defined benefit retirement plan, which will reduce guaranteed benefits to newly hired public employees. The changes will cut retirement benefits to new hires by 20-25%, demonstrating a lack of investment in the workforce and endanger the future economic health of the county.

The effort is being supported by Democratic Chairman Sharon Bulova and resembles Donald Trump's and American Legislative Exchange's (ALEC) national campaign to eliminate defined benefit retirement plans, diminish worker's rights, undermine unions, privatize government services and weaken the middle class.

Fairfax County's public employees are first responders, public school support personnel, social workers, librarians and others who provide excellent services that are the foundation of one of the five wealthiest counties in the United States.

On September 26, 2017, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee unanimously passed a resolution calling upon all eight Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to preserve and strengthen the county employee retirement plan and oppose Chairman Bulova's proposed changes, but the 8-2 Democratic-controlled Board of Supervisors chose to continue evaluating changes.

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Fairfax Education Association
Fairfax Coalition of Police Local 5000
Fairfax County Federation of Teachers
IAFF Local 2068
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SEIU Virginia 512

I, Kathy KL Tran, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

Signed,

Kathy KL Train, Delegate, 42nd District, Virginia House of Delegates

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I, \_\_(Elected Official) \_\_\_\_\_, stand with Fairfax County public employees in calling upon the Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to uphold the platform of the Democratic Party, set forth in the Resolution unanimously passed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on September 26, 2017 and in the 2016 Democratic Party Platform, by making no changes to the current retirement plan for all Fairfax County future hires.

Signed

(Name Printed

Sen.

# SENATE OF VIRGINIA

DAVID W. MARSDEN 37TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT PART OF FAIRFAX COUNTY P. O. BOX 10889 BURKE, VIRGINIA 22009



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Local Government Transportation

Dear Chairman Bulova,

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me this past Saturday at the 10th Anniversary of the Burke Centre Library.

I recognize that the County has a need to control retirement and other benefit costs related to employees and appreciate the struggle you have gone through to balance the needs of taxpayers and County employees. With that in mind, it is important to me that benefits offered to County employees are as good or better than those of surrounding jurisdictions in Northern Virginia. It is also important to me that employees and their representatives have an opportunity to provide information and input into the process that allows for aggregate information to be provided as part of the County's decision making matrix. An open process of communication and a goal of attracting the best possible employees and retaining them over the long haul are the hallmarks of an effective local government.

I know you will continue to communicate with employees and ensure that an open process will continue to be conducted for the benefit of everyone impacted by these decisions. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours Truly,

Dave Marsden 37<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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