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## **STATEMENT: DECEMBER 2016**

"I would like to assure our members that we have the protection of our recently bargained contract regarding health care and pensions. However, once the contract expires in 2018, we will be back at the bargaining table with the State of Michigan. And if our legislators start making sweeping changes to pensions and retiree health care for public employees such as firefighters, school teachers and police officers, it's going to be a slippery slope for other groups such as state employees.

That's why I'm urging you to act now! Use the talking points and information posted on the website under the United Voices tab (Pension Talking Points; pgs. 1&2 and Pensionomics 2016; pgs. 1&2) and contact your state senators and representatives ASAP. The lame duck session of the Legislature has just started and the Senate Appropriations Committee will take up pension legislation sponsored by Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-Saint Clair)--Senate Bills 102, 1187 and 1178--at 9 am on Wednesday, Nov. 30. So far, the primary focus may be on teachers, according to the Michigan AFL-CIO. They are also reporting that there is no plan to reform health care for current retirees."

-- *MSEA President Ken Moore*

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