

**PRESS RELEASE**

May 27, 2023

**State Pay Raises But No Relief for Retirees in Biennial Budget**

*Texas Public Employees Association Executive Director Ann Bishop has issued the following statement about the final version of House Bill 1 that is being approved by the Legislature this weekend:*

“We are thrilled the Legislature recognized that state employees need an across-the-board pay raise — and appreciate the two separate 5% raises in the budget. This will help our dedicated public servants keep up with higher prices and will also stem the historic turnover at state agencies.

“Even with the support for current state workers in the budget, we are disappointed it does not also include a 13<sup>th</sup> check for retired state workers, who have not seen a benefit enhancement in more than two decades and are struggling to keep up with inflation.”

**To schedule a telephone or Zoom interview with Ann Bishop, please contact:** Gary Susswein, New West Communications, [gary@newwestcomms.com](mailto:gary@newwestcomms.com), 512-694-7909

***About TPEA:***

Founded in 1946 by dedicated state employees, the Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA) has fought for over 75 years to promote and preserve the salaries and benefits for state employees and retirees—these benefits make it possible for Texans to devote themselves to careers in keeping Texas prosperous and growing. Today, TPEA is one of the largest associations for active and retired state employees, and it's also the only nonunion, nonpartisan association serving state employees during and after their careers. TPEA was instrumental in the creation of the Employees Retirement System (ERS) pension fund, and it successfully lobbied the Legislature to offer health insurance to state employees and retirees.