

Letter failed to note writer's other interest

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

I respond to the Nov. 15 letter to the editor from Bill Leibensperger concerning problems with healthcare funding for State Teachers Retirement System members.

Leibensperger wrote as co-chairman of the Health Care Advocates for the pension system. It is a noble cause and deserves the kind of attention he touted. What he failed to note is that he also is secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Education Association.

In that position, he is a major player in the illegal termination of contractual post-65 health-care benefits for staff retirees of the OEA. How hypocritical to advocate a process to work out a serious problem for teachers while doing the opposite for OEA staff members.

Retirees offered to work with OEA to try to bring costs under control and were flatly refused. OEA's only response has been that the dispute belongs in federal court, which is where it is today, chewing up hundreds of thousands of OEA member dues dollars.

When Leibensperger talks to members and legislators, the credibility of OEA and his part in this egregious action will not serve him or the teaching community well. The message seems to be "Do as I say, not as I do."

JOHN L. WARDELL

President

Coalition of Retired Employees

of the Ohio Education Association

Circleville