**Legislative Action Report**

**September 2024**

By Dick Simpson

We have had about nine meetings in some form with legislators in 2024. At each we expressed our concerns and legislative agenda. We stressed protection of Tier 1 pensions, better healthcare for members (many hospitals don’t accept Aetna/TRAIL), and improvements for Tier 2 to improve benefits at least to Social Security standards. The health care issue and Tier 2 problems have most grabbed the attention of the legislators with which we have met. We should stress our advocacy of these issues in all communications to SUAA members and potential members to recruit new SUAA members.

Pension funding was increased in this year’s state budget and no new legislation affecting SURS pensions passed. We expect no new amendments to be introduced in the fall veto session as of now.

The plan for our lobbying efforts next year to be more focused on key legislators in the Chicago region where most SUAA-UIC members live. Chris Walch and Don Harmon will be two of the key legislators with whom to meet in either December or January after the November 5 election.

If any Board members or other members want information on the 12 key races that will most affect the outcome of the 2024 election, I will provide the list and ways to donate. SUAA-Action does not focus on national elections like Congresspersons but only state elections.

Carolyn in her membership committee report wrote that we need:

More Focus on Tier II – To be effective, we need to pursue ideas other than the ones listed here on how to strengthen Tier II. So far, C. Keys and D. Simpson persuaded B. Soady to make a YouTube video on why join SUAA that can be viewed by interested SURS employees who want to learn about SUAA. B. Soady has made the video entitled [the importance of SUAA and why you should join](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkEmc9u6Zmo).

The issue now is how to make these videos available to audiences and individuals to encourage them to join SUAA-UIC. We also need to decide whether we should plan to have Chris Keys tape a minute introduction with a specific pitch to join our chapter.