

CalRTA – Sample Letter to the Editor #3 – Breaking a Contract

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I'm writing in response to the recent article in _____ (insert the name of the publication) regarding the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS). The article contains numerous comments regarding the CalSTRS retirement benefits and the current discussions regarding pension reform.

I'm particularly saddened that your paper did not address the effects of breaking a contract in the article. The quote from _____ implies that breaking contracts is a good thing. (Use this sentence if appropriate; delete if not) Breaking contracts, be they a public or private contract, strikes at the heart of our capitalist system.

Contracts ensure that what is promised is delivered. Contracts make private business possible by being able to set the cost of goods, the cost of services, and the cost of capital. If the validity of contracts is questioned, and can be broken with impunity, that raises concerns for our economic system, which is based on contracts.

It's as if I made a contract with your newspaper to buy 100 papers a day for a year at a set price. Six months into our contract I discover that I cannot afford to buy the papers at full price and instead try to pay you half the price promised in the contract. You would take me to court because I unilaterally broke the contract. What _____ (insert name) is proposing is just as egregious an attempt to break a contract.

Name

City

(CalRTA office if appropriate)