Teachers contribute to their retirement security every paycheck, every month. There’s no free ride here.

The vast majority of public teacher retirees receive no Social Security income. Their pensions are all they get.

California’s retirement system provides a major boost for the state’s economy.

About 70 cents of every CalSTRS benefit dollar comes from investments with the rest primarily from member and employer contributions each paycheck.

Study after study proves that defined contribution plans (e.g. 401K plans) are twice as expensive to manage than a defined benefit plan, such as the California State Teachers’ Retirement System provides.

Rather than trying to take away retirement security for some, we should be working to expand retirement security to all. Where would we be if people couldn’t plan to be financially secure during their Golden Years and instead needed to rely on public assistance?

Because retirees spend their pensions in their local communities, their spending ripples through the economy as one person’s spending becomes another person’s income.

In California, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported:
- 443,966 jobs that paid $25.2 billion in wages and salaries;
- $73.7 billion in total economic output; and
- $15.7 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

According to the latest report from the National Institute on Retirement Security, Pensionomics 2018, California saw $73.7 billion in total economic impact in 2016 from pension benefits paid out by state and local pension plans.