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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jefferson Chamber Opposes Requiring Charter Schools to Contribute to Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

METAIRIE, LA – April 29, 2014 – The Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors opposes House Bill No. 37 and House Bill No. 44. Both bills, by Representative J. Kevin Pearson, would force charter schools to pay into the debt of the public schools' Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRPL.)

Charter schools would contribute to TRPL, which would take money out of the charter school classrooms, while providing zero benefit to their employees. In fact, charter schools have their own separate and individual retirement plans. Charter schools pay into social security, as well as 403(b) retirement plans for their teachers.

“The cost would put undue hardships on charter schools, like the Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academies, which are schools for at-risk youth,” said Jefferson Chamber President, Todd Murphy. “We recognize that the Teachers' Retirement System has an \$11 billion problem, but taking money out of the classrooms of charter schools should not be the solution.”

About the Jefferson Chamber:

The [Jefferson Chamber](http://www.jeffersonchamber.org) is a leading voice for Jefferson Parish's business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state and federal levels. The Chamber's mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, follow on Facebook ([facebook.com/jeffersonchamber](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonchamber)) and on Twitter [@jeffersoncoc](https://twitter.com/jeffersoncoc).

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