Will state and local leaders stand up for workers and taxpayers, or will they continue to ignore one of the biggest problems facing our city?

Houston's massive $8.2 billion pension debt has already forced the city to cut positions at the police and fire departments and is limiting the amount of money available for essential services and infrastructure improvements. It's also putting public workers' retirement security at risk, as the city doesn't have enough money to pay for nearly half the benefits that workers have already earned.

If we don't fix Houston's pension problem, it will develop into a full-scale financial crisis, leaving few options other than tax hikes, layoffs, and even deeper service cuts.

These consequences can be avoided. The Texas Legislature is now considering Houston's pension reform plan. Our experts have analyzed the proposal and believe it's an important first step toward comprehensive and long-lasting reform. It would improve the financial stability of Houston's pension systems and help protect the city's fiscal health.

There is one month left in the legislative session. State and local leaders need to come together to reform Houston's pension systems for the good of our city.