

**Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association**  
**Federal Legislative Advocacy RFP**  
**Responses to Questions**  
**June 13, 2017**

1. **Question:** Are there specific bills or issues currently before Congress on which you would like the new consultant to advocate on your behalf?

**Answer:** Advocacy and engagement on specific issues will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Health care is an important topic that our health care consultant currently monitors for LACERA on a monthly basis as well as related retirement issues.

As a point of reference, in the last two years, the Board has taken positions or engaged in advocacy on the excise (or “Cadillac”) tax under Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) for Social Security benefits. LACERA’s health care plan is a retiree-only plan, and Medicare is an important component of LACERA’s retiree health care program. Some LACERA members are also subject to reductions of their Social Security benefits under the WEP and GPO as a result of being employed in the public sector. More broadly, in addition to the ACA and Social Security, LACERA is interested issues such as Medicare, Medicaid, retiree healthcare in general, pension benefits, information privacy and protection under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability of 1996 (HIPAA), fiduciary duties of the Board, public pension plan operations, plan qualification, and plan administration and transparency.

In addition to advocacy, the RFP’s Scope of Services includes education and reporting, where we will rely in large part on the consultant to inform the Board on issues of relevance to LACERA, its plan sponsors, and members.

2. **Question:** How many visits by LACERA staff or trustees to Washington, D.C. are being contemplated for each calendar year? We understand the actual number of visits may vary based on the urgency of the issues in play, but it would be good to have a sense of this for purposes of understanding the scope of work and being able to provide LACERA with a fully-informed pricing proposal.

**Answer:** Whether visits by LACERA staff or trustees are needed will depend on the type of issue and level of engagement required for that issue.