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## Pensions & Defined Contributions

Monday, August 29, 2011

Politicians trying to shore up public pension funding who think that curbing unions' collective-bargaining rights will lower pension costs are wrong.

That is the upshot of an analysis of state and local public plans by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, published in a paper titled "Unions and Public Pension Benefits." It concludes that "unions have no measurable effect on plan generosity or rate of growth in pension benefits, but do have a quantifiable impact on wage levels and perhaps number of workers."

Judy Ward has the full story.

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### Top Stories



#### [Study Says Unions Do Not Lead to Higher Public Pension Benefits](#)

A study by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College has found that "unions have no measurable effect on plan generosity or rate of growth in pension benefits," including Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's successful showdown with public workers earlier this year over collective bargaining.