In the debate over how to fix Illinois’ worst-in-the-nation pension problem, the people who argue that retirement pay and benefits need to be protected at all costs have always held the high ground.

The law is on their side: Pensions are a contract, the benefits of which “shall not be diminished or impaired,” the Illinois Constitution says. Some go a step further. Protecting pensions as promised, they say, is a moral imperative, too.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker has staked out that argument.

But lest we forget: A contract is an agreement between two parties, and both parties are entitled to the rights granted under the terms of their compact.

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