From: <u>Jo Edwards</u>

To: Office State Actuary, WA

Subject: Public Comment on Permanent COLA for Plan 1 Retirees

Date: Sunday, December 10, 2023 12:41:11 PM

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To the Select Committee on Pension Policy:

I understand the committee will be discussing the 2-year study about making the Plan 1 COLA PERMANENT at your meeting on Tuesday, 12-12-2023 at 10:00. I strongly encourage the committee to approve the permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees.

Both my wife and I are Plan 1 retirees who do not receive a Permanent COLA. The only time Plan 1 retirees have received a COLA was when the legislature was approached by Plan 1 Retirees and decided to grant a onetime COLA to Plan 1 retirees.

I understand Plans 2 and 3 have annual COLAs built into their legislative authorization. If a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees is not approved, we will continue to come back to the legislature year after year requesting a COLA, requiring the legislature to deal with this issue every year. To make the legislature more efficient and not have to deal with the same issue every year, the committee needs to recommend making the COLA for Plan 1 retirees permanent. Doing so will make each of you on the committee and the rest of the legislature more productive allowing you to deal with more pressing issues.

I strongly encourage the committee to approve the permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees, or you will be seeing us every year in the future .

Thank you for allowing me to provide input.

Sincerely,

John R. Edwards, Plan 1 Retiree

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