

Halverson, Beth

From: Mail <wcmkem@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 6:49 AM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Plan 1 Cola Proposals

Dear Members of The Select Committee on Pension Policy:

My husband and I were both teachers at elementary schools in Walla Walla for over thirty years. My husband retired in 1997, and I retired in 1999. Over these last years, we have consistently seen our purchasing power erode. Our income has increased very little, while our expenses including the cost of insurance, have steadily increased. Yesterday, we received our new projection for the cost of our Medicare Supplemental Insurance and Dental Insurance. We will pay over \$110 a month more next year! We understand that our payment for Medicare may also increase, while our Social Security payment will only go up \$25 a month.

I was diagnosed with Myositis in early 2007. We were so thankful to have had some years of travel and freedom of activity before that time. Since then we have had to travel about four times a year to Seattle to see doctors, first at Virginia Mason Medical Center, and now at The University of Washington Medical Center. This means hotel and travel expenses out of pocket. Last January, I was more specifically diagnosed with Inclusion Body Myositis which means no current medications are helping. I am getting more and more infirm. I cannot do house or yard work. My husband is eighty years old and can't do all of the tasks either, so we must hire help. An number of our friends are I the same situation, finding themselves in need of more money when there is actually less available.

We are asking for your consideration of our situation and that of so many other retired teachers. We loved our students and the work we did to help them have successful lives. We weren't highly paid when we taught, but believed in what we were doing for kids. Our rewards now are seeing former students who have found success and fulfillment in what they are accomplishing. We need more than that, however. We need to have an increase in our income which will assist us in meeting our rising expenses.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kaye Miller
Bill Miller
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Walla Walla, WA98362

Sent from my iPad