

Halverson, Beth

From: P&J Davison <pjdavison@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:11 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Please support committee recommendations in the future

Dear Committee Members:

Receiving notice of the upcoming meeting of the Pension Policy, Select Committee reminded me how disappointing it was to see the committee chair speak against one of its recommendations on the floor of the Senate. As a member of TRS 1 who has lost 1/3 of my purchasing power since retiring in 2005 the 3% one-time COLA recommendation was truly needed—especially since the same recommendation the previous session was cut in half and has been the only increase since my retirement. An increase of 1.5% makes a fairly small dent in a loss of 33%.

Some may argue that the increase in the Medicare supplement actually helps more than a COLA. That would be true if it kept pace with increasing premiums rather than simply return to a previous level prior to being cut by legislators. Also, not all TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees participate in PEBB/HCA which means that group receives no benefit from this increase.

It would be appreciated if the next time such a carrot is dangled, raising hope, that committee members—and especially the chair--would at least support it when the time comes.

Sincerely,

Jim Davison
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