

From: [Dave McKee](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: re: PERS1 COLA for SCPP
Date: Friday, June 11, 2021 8:34:53 PM
Attachments: [\\$22 per month.docx](#)

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It is my hope you will consider my input on this subject. Thank you, Sincerely, Dave McKee

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Twenty two Dollars per Month

I worked as a Registered Nurse for the Department of Corrections. My PERS1 pension benefit is slightly larger than the average. Over the ten year period of my retirement (2011 to 2021), my monthly benefit has been increased by \$99.75, or an average \$9.98 monthly, per year. This represents a total increase of 4.02% since my 2011 retirement date, or an average increase of 0.402% per year.

When I retired in 2011, the PEBB premiums for medical and dental insurance totaled \$241.76 monthly for a Medicare individual. In 2021, the same PEBB premiums total \$384.30. That's an increase of 58.96% over the ten year period, or an average of 5.9% per year. Had my PERS1 pension benefit increased at the same rate as the medical and dental premiums, I would now be collecting an *additional* \$1,364.94 per month, over my current benefit amount. This would **not** represent a *real* raise in my benefit, but rather, a restoration of the ratio existing at the time of my 2011 retirement. But the Washington State Senate thinks that an increase of \$22 per month is too much to consider.

Social Security's annual COLAs are notoriously inadequate, as they do not reflect the true expenses of elderly senior citizens. Over the ten year period from 2011 to 2021, the average Social Security pension benefit increased at 1.62% per year. As the annual COLAs build upon one-another, the cumulative increase from 2011 to 2021 has been 20.85%. If my PERS1 pension benefit had increased at the same rate as Social Security benefits, I would now be collecting an *additional* \$418.20 per month, over my current benefit amount. But the Washington State Senate thinks that \$22 per month is too much to consider.

This is not a formula for retirement. It's a policy of slow financial strangulation. It's also a case of grossly disparate treatment with no justification. None of us anticipated this degree of callous disregard after years of service to the state. We had no reason to.

The Republicans are antithetical and hostile toward all our common interests. The Democrats clearly think they can take our support for granted. The Democrats think our loyalty and support is worth about \$22 per month.

I would like to propose a unified stance on the part of RPECWA. I propose we withhold all political endorsements and monetary campaign donations from both Democrats and Republicans until such time as a remedy for the PERS1 crisis is signed, sealed, and delivered. If the legislators can get away with this neglect of PERS1 interests, no public employee pension will be safe. They can repeal laws and establish others. They can divert funds and reorder priorities. They have had ten years to manage this crisis. Their attention to it is now worth something less than \$22 per month.

Any legislator that would propose or vote for \$22 per month has no realistic grasp of the crisis they have created. Our RPECWA lobbying efforts have failed miserably. PERS1 retirees are facing a destitute future.