
From: Karen Peele <karenpeelee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: PERS 1 Cola

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To the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP):

I am writing to you on a very important issue to not only myself and my family, but also all the dedicated, hardworking state employees who retired under the Plan 1 pension program. I started working in 1968 at Central Washington University and retired from Chelan County in 2013. It was an honor and a privilege to call myself a public employee and always was grateful that I knew when I retired I would have a pension in my retirement years.

Never did I imagine the state could so easily take away the Plan 1 COLA that was guaranteed to us through negotiations and contracts. Yet Plans 2 and 3 have automatic COLA's guaranteed to them (as did Plan 1). The cost of living is not going down. Social Security is looking into granting social security recipients their largest COLA in recent years. And yet, the Plan 1 retirees have to fight and worry about getting a very modest COLA. This, at a time when we should be enjoying retirement after a long work life, only to be concerned about rising prices, including medical and pharmacy prices and wondering how on earth we are going to pay for it all.

Please consider granting all Plan 1 retirees a permanent COLA so we can be assured of some level of equity among all state employees. I'm sure you have better things to do in running the state government than listening to us complain about something that should have never been taken away from us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Sandnes-Peele

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