
From: Edith Ruby <eruby98103@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Plan 1 COLA

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Dear SCPP member,

I am a Seattle teacher who retired in 2006 at age 65 after 33.5 years of service. While my pension, at 60% of my final salary, would be small and its buying power would decrease with inflation, I calculated that with yearly increases from my Uniform COLA I could manage to continue living in my own home for most of my remaining years. I had attended two DRS pre-retirement workshops in the five years previous to my retirement and neither of these mentioned the possibility that the legislature would eliminate that COLA. Its unexpected permanent elimination in 2011 was a painful shock!

At age 80 my future financial prospects do not look good. An online inflation calculator tells me that my monthly pension check today will purchase **\$640 less** in goods and services this year than in the year I retired. With age, need for prescription medications and help with house maintenance tasks have increased, but my pension's shrinking buying power limits more and more what I can afford. Exploring the costs of assisted living tells me that this is not financially feasible at this time.

I strongly urge you as a member of SCPP to recommend to the legislature that a permanent COLA be restored for Plan 1 members as soon as possible. Since this will not likely happen in the 2022 legislative session, I also urge a one time COLA to offset this year's damaging 5.9% inflation.

Those of us who have spent the majority of our adult lives working for the state at salaries below those for similar work in the private sector counted on the state, as our employer, to give us the pensions we were promised in our retirement. I hope that our faith in that employer will not be forever destroyed.

Sincerely,
Edith Ruby

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