

From: stellari@harbornet.com
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: Regarding still advocating for Plan 1 TRS & PRS permanent ongoing true COLA
Date: Monday, October 17, 2022 5:36:25 PM

CAUTION:External email.

To Members of the Select Committee on Pension and assigned staff:
Regarding still advocating for Plan 1 COLA: The earliest educators and state employees who worked for the least amounts of salary and benefits and who were promised a retiree pension COLA at time of retirement, and who still do not have one even though most are elderly ancient by now, deserve consideration and a remedy in the form of a permanent ongoing true COLA.

I know, some on the SCPP and in the legislature believe that the state legislature should take action to do something, but may follow up with comments, such as, the actuaries are cautious because the fund is underfunded. They say this while some do not recall, or may not even know, that the state took money out of the fund years ago, generally this is stated as "borrowed," to build a bridge and other stuff, probably referred to as infrastructure now. Paraphrased and shortened here.

I realize that this is complicated to understand and remedy, but so are the financial impacts, real life budgetary decisions, and forced sacrifices of Plan 1 TRS and PERS members. I am aware that some budget years are more easily navigated than others and that numerous constituent groups are seeking funding.

I'm on Plan 2 and spend much time and thought when managing my budget to cover basics and unexpected household and healthcare maintenance. I have an 403b investment plan that I started mid teaching career. Plan 1 members did NOT have the option of starting a 403b account. I was able to request and apply an IRA distribution to help pay for new kitchen appliances last year. My appliances were not performing, not heating the oven to the thermostat indicator readings, not sounding healthy in the freezer fan compartment area, and not able to maintain the under-dishwater trim without my old wooden ice cream spoon shim. Thankfully, I have a Plan 2 COLA, although not up to CPI level, and I was able to replace my appliances with ones that function and make my kitchen appear as if I were on the Starship Enterprise or Starship Voyager. =New appliances all come that way now. Who knew?

Please support a true COLA for Plan 1 TRS and PERS and help to put it into statute.

Thank you for your attention and public service.
Shirley Hickey
WEA-Retired Vice President.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.