

From: [Mike and Barb Lopuszynski](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: letter to request permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:00:09 AM
Attachments: [letter to select committe on plan 1 cola.docx](#)

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Please see attached Word document. Thank you.
Barbara Lopuszynski
812 Edgecliff Dr
Langley, WA 98260

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9/19/2022

To The Honorable Steve Conway
Chair Select Committee on Pension Policy
P.O. Box 40429
Olympia, WA 98504-042

Dear Chair Conway:

I wish to request that the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCC) take immediate action to restore a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA) to Plan 1 retirees. Although I am very appreciative of the one-time COLA you secured for Plan 1 retirees like me in the last legislative session, it is very critical for my family to be able to plan for the future, and one-time COLAs are short-term fixes that never address the real problem: the long-standing systemic inequity that plagues Plan 1 retirees. Year-after-year we continue to lose purchasing power.

It feels like everything else is going up in price but the COLA remains, except for this year, unchanged. That means that each year we have less to work with. We have 9 grandchildren and college costs are something we planned to help with. Each year it becomes less and less likely that we'll be able to do so.

With the pay down of the unfunded liability in the Plan 1 pension plan on the horizon, the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) asks that you work this legislative session to codify, in law, a trigger point by which the state will fund a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees. I hope we can count on you to embrace this request and lead the path forward to legislation to finally fix this problem. Thank you for giving RPEC's request your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lopuszynski
812 Edgecliff Dr
Langley, WA 98260