

September 16, 2022

The Honorable Steve Conway

Chair

Select Committee on Pension Policy

P.O. Box 40429

Olympia, WA 98504-042

Dear Chair Conway:

I am writing to ask you and the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCC) to take immediate action to restore a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA) to Plan 1 retirees.

I deeply appreciate the one-time COLA you secured for Plan 1 retirees like me in the last legislative session. The COLA was helpful and provided temporary relief. That said, I know that the SCPP is committed to ensuring equity in the pension systems; However, one-time COLAs, while deeply appreciated, are short-term fixes that never address the real problem: The long-standing systemic inequity that plagues Plan 1 retirees. Year-after-year the state's oldest retirees, who historically receive the lowest pensions, continue to lose purchasing power.

Out of necessity, I received custody and raised my grandson in a small, crowded one-bedroom apartment home. I slept on the sofa, while my grandson had the one and only bedroom. I wore the same pair of shoes to my grandson's school, whenever it was necessary, from his 1st Grade through his 12th Grade. Heating my small apartment during the coldest months makes it difficult to pay the heating bill; Therefore, my small apartment home is uncomfortably cold. I am unable to tithe at our church. I shop at secondhand stores. I purchase the lowest-cost food.

My family has been negatively impacted because of the lack of a permanent COLA.

Only a permanent COLA guarantees financial, food, and housing, security in retirement.

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.

Most Sincerely,



Mrs. Jenny Heather Potter

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