

September 17, 2022

The Honorable Steve Conway  
Chair  
Select Committee on Pension Policy  
PO 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 onetime 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 SPCP is committed to ensuring equity in the pension systems. However, one-time COLA, 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.

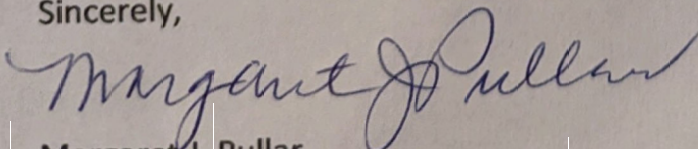
I am 77 years old and live alone. My pension is crucial to the continued quality of my everyday living needs, such as food and medical care. It is so very difficult to meet these ever-increasing costs. Knowing that a permanent COLA would be in place would be an incredibly positive benefit and so very much appreciated.

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,



Margaret J. Pullar  
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Auburn WA 98001