

## Hawbaker, Lisa

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**From:** P&J Davison <pjdavison@q.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** Help needed by ALL retirees to combat inflation

Dear Select Committee on Pension Policy Members:

Since retirement in 2005 as a member of TRS 1 my purchasing power has declined substantially--over 12 percent just since 2011. That is due, in part, to legislative action to eliminate the Plan 1 UCOLA, reduce the Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit and elimination of Gain Sharing.

At this time TRS 1 and PERS 1 are the *ONLY* two groups of retirees without a COLA. Some may argue that we have a COLA. It applies only to those long-time retirees whose income was so low they had to be increased to help them avoid qualifying for other state assistance—and they make up only about 10 percent of the group. The other 90 percent, myself included, receive no help to combat inflation. For me, that has been true since my 2005 retirement.

Also, it is my understanding that if the legislature fails to increase the Medicare Eligible Healthcare Benefit matching federal funds could be lost. Simply restoring it to \$183/month will not keep up due to premium increases. It now needs to be raised to \$205/month. Retirees in the Uniform Medical face a premium increase of \$55/month starting in January. Those of us in Kaiser had a \$40/month increase in 2017.

It is hoped you will keep school retirees in mind during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Jim Davison  
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