

Halverson, Beth

From: P&J Davison <pjdavison@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 9:36 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: TRS 1 retirees loss of purchasing power

October 3, 2018

Select Committee on Pension Policy
P.O. Box 40914
Olympia, WA 98504-0914

Dear Committee Members:

Since my retirement from teaching as a member of Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS 1) only one increase has been received in retirement income from that plan, 1.5% as a result of negotiations during the 2018 Legislature. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows prices are 29.11% higher now than in 2005. As a result my purchasing power has failed to keep up.

Several costly unplanned things occurred this year: (1) the water supply line to our home had to be replaced; (2) a sinking slab of concrete in the garage had to be restored to its original height; (3) our shingles, which were supposed to last 40 years, were failing after 19 years and had to be replaced—and I no longer felt capable of doing the job as I had the previous two times; (4) and the topper, so far, was my wife being kicked by a horse—not ours—resulting in a broken collar bone.

Normally we've been able to keep up with the unexpected things life has thrown at us. This year, due to the number and cost of each, we've been forced to take out a loan.

Had TRS 1 retirees been receiving annual cost of living adjustments, as do nearly every other Washington State retirement plan, there would have been a much better chance we could have survived this year without having to take out a home equity loan against our paid-off home.

Please consider the above information during your discussions and when making recommendations to the Legislature.

Sincerely,

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