

Wallis, Keri

From: Matt Zuvich <MattZ@wfse.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Fitzgibbon, Rep. Joe
Cc: Brenda L. J. Wiest; Aaron.Gutierrez@osa.wa.gov; Office State Actuary, WA; Kunze, Leanne
Subject: Comparison report on Death and Disability benefits between PSERS and LEOFF Retirement systems

Mr. Chair and members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy,

In testimony before the Select Committee in July, The Washington Federation of State Employees asked that a comparison report be compiled by the State Actuary and presented to the SPCP regarding the death and disability benefits in the PSERS 2 and LEOFF 2 retirement systems. We would like to take this opportunity to formally submit this request in writing to the Select Committee on Pension Policy.

Our members have pointed out to us that there is a large discrepancy in the benefits offered between the two systems. They have asked us to advocate toward making them more comparable since they strongly feel that the work they do and the populations they work with are very similar in nature. After analyzing the benefits offered in both PSERS and LEOFF we have determined that improvement to the death and disability benefits in PSERS would be a reasonable place to start that process. We are working together in coalition with Teamsters local 117 in pursuing this end. We are particularly interested in a side by side comparison of the two systems and the fiscal impact of making the death and disability benefits more comparable or identical.

WFSE and Teamsters local 117 hope that the SPCP will support our request to make this comparison presentation prior to the 2020 legislative session. Serious injury and the possibility of death is a very real consideration to our members who work in DOC, DSHS institutions and JR administration. Most of those workers are now members of the PSERS 2. The assurance that they and their families will be taken care of should the worst occur on the job, would be a meaningful way of validating the work they do.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about our request.

Best regards,

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