



Washington State School Retirees' Association

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June 21, 2021

The Honorable Drew Stokesbary
Chair, Select Committee on Pension Policy
434 John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chair Stokesbary:

Having consulted with the with the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington (RPEC-WA) and the Washington Education Association – Retired (WEA-R), we formally submit the following Plan 1 COLA proposals for review by the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP):

- A one-time, permanent increase to PERS 1 & TRS 1 retirees of 3% on the first \$44,000 in pension income. This would be similar to the bills sponsored during the 2017-2021 period, but with a higher salary cap. This cap represents the income level qualifying retirees for the state's senior citizen property tax reduction programs.
- A one-time, permanent increase to PERS 1 & TRS 1 retirees of 3% with no cap.
- An annual, automatic CPI based Plan 1 COLA of up to 3% per year. This would match the COLAs provided in Plans 2 & 3.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. This summer marks the ten year anniversary of the Plan 1 COLA – it is imperative the issue be addressed before more retirees fall into poverty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Burke".

Alan Burke
Executive Director
Washington State School Retirees' Association