
From: Jean Backman <jeanbski@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Re: Select Committee on Pension Policy - PERS 1 COLA

CAUTION:External email.

Dear Committee Members:

I apologize, my earlier email (see below) did not include my identifying information:

Jean Backman
4807 Center Lane NE
Olympia, WA 98516

Hm: 360-456-2126
Cell: 360-951-4832

On 11/12/2021 2:27 PM Jean Backman <jeanbski@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Members of the SCPP:

I am writing to ask you to support a PERS 1 COLA, and in addition, that a permanent, annual, COLA for PERS 1 be enacted.

I am in PERS 1, having retired from state government employment in 2002 with 31 years. (Employment with the State from 1970-2002). As a woman, and in the administrative support field, my wage earning capability was not great and so my pension is already modest.

For some years following my state retirement, I was able to supplement my pension with other employment. But even that was severely impacted when the legislature rolled back the number of hours I could collect my pension each year when employed by an entity accessing the same retirement system (from 1,500 hours annual employment reduced to 867 annual hours). I don't recall exactly what year the legislature took that egregious action, but I think it was around 2005-2006? Effectively, that RETROACTIVELY changed the rules under which I had retired. And caused me to lose approximately \$30,000 in pension benefits over about 15 years.

And now as I approach 70 years of age, and with the COVID issues, my ability to supplement my pension is pretty much gone. Our country's inflation is soaring and the economic outlook is not good. The prices of basic living necessities, such as food, household heating, and even gas for the car to get to the grocery store are skyrocketing. I know I am not the only PERS 1 retiree who is already feeling the squeeze.

On behalf of myself and other PERS 1 retirees, I ask you to strongly support permanent, annual, PERS 1 COLAs for our welfare. Thank you.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.