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**From:** J HALVORSON <halvo@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** Permanent COLA for Plan 1 Retirees

**CAUTION:**External email.

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in support of a permanent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all Plan 1 retirees. I retired from the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services in September, 1998, 23 years ago. I would have been eligible for a Plan 1 COLA in July of 2008, but the Great Recession caused the Legislature to eliminate the Plan 1 COLA. Therefore, I've had a flat income for 18 years until the meager one-time COLA of 1.5% in 2016 and the 3% COLA in 2019. Meanwhile, inflation since 1998 has averaged about 2% a year reducing my purchasing power very significantly.

This past year with the Pandemic and now with the 6.2% inflation rate just in the month of October, 2021, I worry that I will be unable to stay in my home. We have lived in the same house since 1975. We plan to live here until we die. Our property taxes increased 7.9% from 2020 to 2021. We don't know yet what will happen to property taxes for 2022, but we know the increase won't be zero. Our homes assessed value went up 20.8% due to the hot housing market. We made no new improvements. We are being priced out. We need that permanent COLA!

Sincerely, Jon W. Halvorson, Lacey, WA

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