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**From:** sondralp@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** COLA ACTION

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To: Committee of the State Actuary  
Supporting Financial Security for Generations

Plan 1 retirees are in a precarious position. Without an automatic COLA since 2011, our purchasing power has decreased by 20% over the last ten years alone. We know that loss can never be restored.

The reality is when one considers the current surge in rising inflation, increased healthcare costs and housing costs and the global warming and climate change, the Plan 1 retiree's yearly average pension of around \$26,000 is a precursor for a life of insecurity .A SUSTAINABLE COLA MATTERS.

In your thoughtful and thorough evaluation of the three COLA options, you now must balance price and the future security and humanitarian needs of Pers 1 retirees. Considering that Washington is one of the fastest growing economies in the country, I strongly recommend endorsement of **Option A, a permanent, consistent and substantial PERS 1 COLA. This would be a breakthrough moment for the lives of PERS 1 retirees and represent a long overdue investment in Washington State Public Employee Retirees.**

**I WAS EMPLOYED BY THE City of Bellingham Police Department from 1972 to 1993 as a 911 Supervisor.**

**Since that time the cost of living has increased many times over while for most of the years since retirement I have not had any increase. My retirement did not have a automatic Cola built in and therefore it was necessary for me to continue working just to exist as a single mother. With the extremely high increase of everything from medical, fuel to food it is nearly impossible to meet all the financial demands and still maintain any quality of life.**

**Please consider Option A so that in what is supposed to be the golden years of my life the outlook is not so tarnished.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sondra Penfold  
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