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**From:** Kelly Houck <kelly.houck@rpecwa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 3, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** Retired Public Employee Council member letter  
**Attachments:** Jean Markham letter.pdf

**CAUTION:** External email.

To whom it may concern,

I am sending a correspondence letter on behalf of our member Jean Markham with the Retired Public Employees Council.

Thank you,

**Kelly Houck**  
Administrative Assistant  
Retired Public Employees Council  
**Office: (360)-352-8262 ext 100**  
[www.rpecwa.org](http://www.rpecwa.org)



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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a PERS 1 retired state employee. I was hired in 1966, and after 30 continuous years, retired from Children and Family Services (DCFS) in 1996. Since my retirement almost 25 years ago I have received only 3 COLAS. These COLAS did not translate into actual raises because they were absorbed by increases in medical insurance costs. In other words, my current net retirement benefit is almost EXACTLY the same as it was when I retired in 1996. Obviously, inflation has greatly decreased the value of those dollars.


I was prompted to contact RPEC and to write this letter because I am my sole source of support and inflation is dramatically increasing the cost of everything, including necessities like food and gas. My property taxes have nearly doubled in the past 5 years. In addition, as one gets older one tends to have more medical expenses, often not covered fully, sometimes not at all, by medical insurance. My dental insurance will only pay a small

percentage of the cost of the dental work I need done. I'm sure many other PERS 1 retirees are in similar circumstance. We need and deserve more frequent COLAS and that they should be more in keeping with the actual rate of inflation.

Thank-you.

Hopefully,

Jean Markham



Ms. Jean Markham  
3867 Summersun St  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273