
From: Gayle Talbot <gjstalbot@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: TRS Plan 1 COLA

CAUTION:External email.

Dear Select Committee on Pension Policy,

Hello. I am writing to explain how desperately a permanent TRS Plan 1 COLA is needed for our group of retirees! My name is Gayle Talbot and I taught 4th grade in Moses Lake for 16 years and before that I subbed. I started my teaching career in 5th and 6th grades in West Valley, Yakima before moving out of state. My pension is small, compared to others my age of 71 who have retired 5 years ago. I am single, living a very modest lifestyle and still find it hard to make ends meet!

I remember when the TRS COLA was being taken away in 2011, and yet it was promised to be reinstated in better economic times. I have been grateful for the 3 small COLAs, but they do not begin to replace the large dent that inflation has caused. I worked hard and loved teaching my students, earning many awards and recognitions, including Teacher of the Year for the Columbia Basin in 2017. I wasn't a teacher for the money, but I didn't think I would be wishing that I had not returned to WA to teach until retirement.

I urge you to recommend the Plan 1 COLA to the 2023 Legislature! There are so many TRS Plan 1 retirees older than myself who are not tech savvy - they are hurting financially and not able to voice their need for a COLA.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gayle Talbot
1018 W Rose Ave.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

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.