
From: Rhonda Vaglio <rvaglio128@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:35 AM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: COLA for RPEC
Attachments: The Honorable Steve Conway Chair Select Committee on Pension Policy.docx

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Rhonda Vaglio

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September 15, 2022

The Honorable Steve Conway Chair Select Committee on Pension Policy

P.O. Box 40429

Olympia, WA 98504-042

Dear Chair Conway:

I am writing to ask you and the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCC) to take immediate action to restore a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA) to Plan 1 retirees.

I deeply appreciate the one-time COLA you secured for Plan 1 retirees like me in the last legislative session. The COLA was helpful and provided temporary relief. That said, I know that the SCPP is committed to ensuring equity in the pension systems. However, one-time COLAs, while deeply appreciated, are short-term fixes that never address the real problem: the long-standing systemic inequity that plagues Plan 1 retirees. Year-after-year the state's oldest retirees, who historically receive the lowest pensions, continue to lose purchasing power.

I am a Plan 1 retiree. I have been retired from public employment for 14 years. Prices continually go up each year on everything we purchase. My retirement check purchases less and less each time we shop. We are noticing how our dollar power is becoming less and less. We are having to watch our pennies every month and unable to stretch our dollar any farther. Please, institute a permanent COLA so that I may enjoy my retirement after all the years I worked for a school district and a parks district.

Only a permanent COLA guarantees financial, food, and housing security in retirement.

With the pay down of the unfunded liability in the Plan 1 pension plan on the horizon, the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) asks that you work this legislative session to codify, in law, a trigger point by which the state will fund a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees.

I hope we can count on you to embrace this request and lead the path forward to legislation to finally fix this problem. Thank you for giving RPEC's request your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Vaglio

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