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**From:** jschmitt@olympen.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 16, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** written testimony, Plan 1 COLA

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To the Select Committee on Pension Policy:

My mother, Susan Skubinna, is a Plan 1 retiree in Washington State. So are a couple of my former teaching colleagues. None of them are able to attend or provide testimony for the Oct. 18 meeting, due to technology limitations experienced by many seniors their age.

I am writing on behalf of these people to urge the Committee to recommend a permanent COLA for Plan 1members. This is long overdue, and it's a tragedy that these seniors on fixed incomes have to beg each year for a tiny pension adjustment, which almost every year is denied. My mother is fortunate to be receiving a Social Security COLA this year, but her main source of income is her Washington State Retirement Pension, which loses value every year. She jokes that you are simply "waiting for us all to die off." It is time to show respect to these former State employees who provided invaluable service during their careers, and who counted on the Washington State DRS to provide for them in their retirement.

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