
From: Dorette Markham <markhamdor@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 6:49 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Permanent COLA for Pers 1

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Hello!

My name is Dorette M. Markham and I retired from WA state service in 1997. I am 78 years old and my pension plan (PERS 1) does not have a permanent COLA. Please consider this written testimony for the upcoming hearing.

Do you have any idea what it is like to be retired for TWENTY FIVE years and to NOT have a permanent COLA? TWENTY FIVE YEARS!!!

Every few years, the Legislature has given us a small COLA. This last one, this year, gave me \$64 a month. Thank goodness, because the rent for my apartment went up again. This time by \$50 a month. Electricity rates are increasing and let's NOT talk about gasoline for our old cars or about the rising cost of food.

There probably are not many of us PERS 1 folks left and maybe that is what you all are counting on. But think about YOUR grandparents. I could be YOUR grandmother.

I worked for two different agencies (ESD and L&I) in the State of Washington for a total of 26 years. (I was a WAC from '66 to '70, so my 4 years of ARMY service counted after 26 years.) I worked hard at every job I had and I like to think I made a difference..... way back then.

It's time to honor PERS 1 retirees with more than lip service...it's time for a permanent COLA.

Thank you.

Dorette M. Markham
3555 Market Place West, #312
University Place, WA 98466
253.566.3580

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