

From: [Jim Davison](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: NO COLA—again—the 15th time since retiring in 2005!
Date: Thursday, July 31, 2025 9:04:55 PM

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Dear Chair Couture, Vice-Chair Conway and committee members:

On July 31 my monthly pension payment was received, but it didn't include a COLA. This is because I am a member of TRS 1, and the legislature failed to provide a COLA to TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees in 2025.

While every other state-managed pension plan receives an automatic annual COLA every July, the Washington State Legislature took away my ongoing COLA in 2011. The 5 one-time capped COLAs are the only increase to my pension since retiring in 2005. Lack of annual increases to my pension are resulting in being forced to make more spending choices because of continually increasing costs.

Every year without a COLA I fall further behind (65.84% lost purchasing power since 2005) and this coming year will be no different. I am not living the secure retirement I was promised in return for a career of educating Washington's students. It is definitely not a "Cadillac Plan" as Senator Hewitt always told school retirees!

Fortunately, there is an easy solution to this problem. Earlier this year, the Washington State Senate passed a bill that would restore my ongoing COLA. By merging three closed pension plans, SB 5085 would also save billions of dollars for the state and local governments by eliminating all pension debt—while not reducing any retiree benefits! Though the House didn't pass the bill, it's currently being studied by the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) and could be passed next year.

After decades of using Plans 1 to help balance budgets, it is my hope the SCPP and the legislature will make these retirees a priority this time around.

Hopeful, but . . . ,

Jim Davison, TRS 1 since 2005 after a 36-year career
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