

From: [Leona Hassing](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: Plan 1 COLA
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 11:09:13 AM

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Dear SCPP,

I'm writing today to encourage the SCPP to realize that Plan 1 teachers are deserving of better monetary consideration than they have received since their retirement. A COLA is needed.

I started teaching in 1971 and retired with 31 years in my career. In 1971, times were such that Boeing was laying off many employees and those people came right into the teaching field. It was difficult to find a job as a new teacher. I sent many letters and attended many job interviews. It was 2 weeks after school started that I was called back for a job in Pasco. I never regret my experiences in the Pasco School District.

My principal, being a man of foresight, told us (the first year teachers at one of our after school teachers meetings), "If I was a teacher just starting I would set money aside from each paycheck. Well, I heard him and I took his advice. I grew up on a farm, know how to plant a garden, preserve the bounties of the garden, and fill the freezer with extras. I was aware of saving. I don't have the latest model car or the newest computer system. It was only 3 years ago that I got a cell phone.

But if I hadn't taken his advice, I wouldn't have a cushion to live on now. The salary I was receiving then was enough to get by. I've not had to live paycheck to paycheck because of my saving practices.

Not all people save money. I'm writing today to impress upon you that there are many, many who are barely getting by. They need consideration.

I can honestly say that my retirement benefit from the state is \$3,059.38

per month and it doesn't change much from year to year. As the health insurance and dental rates increase my basic retirement benefit is not increasing. I am loosing money and my standard of living is loosing as well.

In summary, if I hadn't set aside money I wouldn't be where I am today. If I had not saved and set aside money, my benefit check wouldn't be enough for me to live comfortably in my retirement years. Please consider a COLA for all retirees in Plan 1.

Thank you,

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