
From: Judith Frey <freybroughton@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Written testimony for Select Committee on Pension Policy
Attachments: Letter to SCC.docx

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Attached is my written testimony for the Senate Committee on Pension Policy meeting scheduled for September 20, 2022.

Judith Frey
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September 16, 2022

The Honorable Steve Conway
Chair, Select Committee on Pension Policy
P.O. Box 40429
Olympia, WA 98504-042

Dear Chair Conway:

I am a 78 year old who retired in 2000 after 30 years of service as a library administrator and higher education dean. Because there has been no permanent, reliable COLA for PERS 1 retirees since 2010, the value of my pension against inflation has forced me to return to part time work. I never thought I would be working at this age.

While there have been one-time COLAs, the cap has prevented me from receiving even the 3% fix, while the New York Times reported an inflation rate of over 10% and the Social Security COLA for 2023 is predicted to be 8.7%.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that effect of inflation on the Basics: Chicken is up 19%, Butter up 21%, Eggs up 33%. I am not looking for a life of luxury; I just want to pay for gas, groceries, housing and medicine. Only a permanent COLA that I could count on and plan on would allow me to actually retire before I die.

I plead with you and the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy to fund a permanent COLA for PERS Plan 1 retirees like myself.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Frey
President, Retired Public Employees Council
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