
From: Peter Diedrick <peter@wssra.org>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 10:51 AM
To: Gutierrez, Aaron; Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: SCPP Correspondence from WA State School Retirees' Assoc.
Attachments: WSSRA Letter to SCPP 4_8_22.pdf

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To the Select Committee on Pension Policy:

The Washington State School Retirees' Association would like to submit the attached letter to the SCPP for official correspondence.

Sincerely,

PETER DIEDRICK
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
(360) 413-5496

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Washington State School Retirees' Association

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April 8, 2022

Members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy:

As the SCPP begins meeting during the interim and develops a work plan, we strongly recommend adding discussion of a cost-of-living increase (COLA) for TRS/PERS Plan 1 members.

We are grateful for the recent one-time 3% COLA granted during the last session. However, inflation soared after SCPP discussions began over a COLA request last summer. Plan 1-ers have received three limited COLAs over the last decade while the other thirteen retirement plans have received regular increases. The purchasing power of our Plan 1 members continues to decline.

The most recent DRS-determined COLA increase for the 13 plans with an automatic COLA is 4.75%, even though 2021 inflation exceeded 7%. These plans will receive a 3% increase and bank the remaining 1.75% for future years.

As for Plan 1 retirees, we propose that the committee examine a proposal to grant a future COLA that equals the current Seattle area CPI. A study of this proposal would allow the committee to examine costs and decide if a CPI based approach, or something more specific in that range, would meet the needs of the committee and retirees.

Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Burke".

Alan Burke, Ed.D, Executive Director
Washington State School Retirees' Association