



April 2, 2021

The Honorable Christine Rolfes
Chair, Ways and Means

The Honorable Timm Ormsby
Chair, Appropriations

The Honorable David Frockt
Vice Chair, Ways and Means

The Honorable Steve Bergquist
Vice Chair, Appropriations

The Honorable June Robinson
Vice Chair, Ways and Means

The Honorable Mia Gregerson
Vice Chair, Appropriations

The Honorable Lynda Wilson
Ranking Member, Ways and Means

The Honorable Nicole Macri
Vice Chair, Appropriations

The Honorable Sharon Brown
Assistant Ranking Member Ways and Means

The Honorable Drew Stokesbary
Ranking Member, Appropriations

The Honorable Jim Honeyford
Assistant Ranking Member, Ways and Means

The Honorable Kelly Chambers
Assistant Ranking Members, Appropriations

The Honorable Mark Schoesler
Assistant Ranking Member, Ways and Means

The Honorable Chris Corry
Assistant Ranking Member, Appropriations

The Honorable Drew MacEwen
Assistant Ranking Member, Appropriations

RE: 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment for Plan 1 Retirees up to \$25,000

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many economic challenges for Washingtonians, as they are left to wonder how they will make ends meet. This is especially true for retirees, whose Plan 1 cost of living adjustment serves as a critical support to help meet basic needs, including medical, food, and housing expenses. The legislature has long recognized the value of our longest residents and funded a Plan 1 COLA just last session. This session, we can continue our commitment to this funding.

The House budget currently includes funding for a 1.5% Plan 1 COLA up to \$17,600, per House Bill 1565. However, this COLA has historically gone up to \$25,000, providing an additional nine dollars per month for retirees. Considering base pay in the 1980's – 2000's was much lower than salaries today, and that retirement benefits are calculated off that pay, many are living on limited retirement incomes as is.

While COVID-19 has limited the smaller community-based commutes of retirees, it has made good healthcare even more important and required them, as an at-risk population, to invest in additional health and safety measures for their homes. This coupled with the rapidly rising costs of living, puts our retirees

in a precarious economic position.

Retirees have no other way to enhance their incomes and it is critical we provide them with this COLA to help them remain independent and in their homes. We, the undersigned, ask for 1.5% Plan 1 COLA funding up to \$25,000. These retirees provided critical services to the citizens of our state and educated our children and grandchildren when they needed it – it is time for us to provide when they need it most.

Sincerely,



Mari Leavitt
Representative, 28th Legislative District



Jesse Johnson
Representative, 30th Legislative District



Laurie Dolan
Representative, 22nd Legislative District



Shelly Kloba
Representative, 1st Legislative District



Rob Chase
Representative, 4th Legislative District



Bob McCaslin
Representative, 4th Legislative District



Lisa Callan
Representative, 5th Legislative District



Mike Volz
Representative, 6th Legislative District



Jenny Graham
Representative, 6th Legislative District



Joe Schmick
Representative, 9th Legislative District



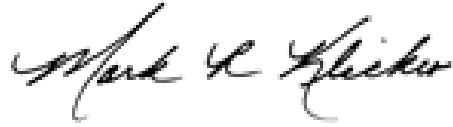
Dave Paul
Representative, 10th Legislative District



Tom Dent
Representative, 13th Legislative District



Chris Corry
Representative, 14th Legislative District



Mark Klicker
Representative, 16th Legislative District



Skyler Rude
Representative, 16th Legislative District



Paul Harris
Representative, 16th Legislative District



Jim Walsh
Representative, 19th Legislative District



Ed Orcutt
Representative, 20th Legislative District



Strom Peterson
Representative, 21st Legislative District



Jessica Bateman
Representative, 22nd Legislative District



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Representative, 23rd Legislative District



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Jamila Taylor
Representative, 30th Legislative District



Tina Orwall
Representative, 33rd Legislative District



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Representative, 38th Legislative District



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Representative, 42nd Legislative District



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Javier Valdez
Representative, 46th Legislative District



Vandana Slatter
Representative, 48th Legislative District



Amy Walen
Representative, 48th Legislative District