

Sample Verbal Testimony Templates

November SSCP meeting

One-minute Testimony Template

Good morning, Chair Conway, Legislators and Members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy. My name is _____. I am a retired public service employee. I retired in _____ and am a member of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington.

I am here to thank you for your consideration of proposals supported by RPEC, other senior organizations, and organized labor. I urge you to support a proposal that includes trigger language to restore a permanent COLA and provides ad hoc COLA relief.

There is no need to make this an either/or situation. We need a permanent COLA and we need relief from skyrocketing inflation.

One-time COLAs help me bridge the gap between my pension income and the rising costs of (list examples). However, one-time COLAs are temporary fixes that never address the real problem: year after year, my purchasing power is eroded more and more. This persistent issue can only be addressed with a permanent COLA.

(Briefly tell your story: How has not having a recurring COLA impacted the quality of your life? Your financial stability? Has the lack of a permanent COLA impacted your partner/spouse or your family who may be helping you financially? What difficult choices are you being forced to make – year after year -- because you do not have the resources to make ends meet because of the lack of a permanent COLA?)

As you think about the proposals before you for consideration, I strongly urge you to support both a path forward, through legislation with trigger language, for a permanent COLA and ad hoc relief.

Please remember that only a recurring COLA will help to ensure financial, food and housing security in retirement.

Thank you.

20 Second Testimony Template

If others have testified before you and made points similar to the ones you were planning to make, you should consider shortening your testimony so others may also testify. Please find an example below:

Good morning, Chair Conway, Legislators and Members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy. My name is _____. I am a retired public service employee. I retired in _____ and am a member of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington.

For reasons that many others have stated, I am here to speak in support of a proposal that includes trigger language to restore a permanent COLA and provides ad hoc COLA relief for Plan 1 retirees. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before the committee. I cede the remainder of my time.