

Members please note:

Please address your letter to Senator Conway using this address cited below. Mail your letter to the address found within the *How to Participate, Register & Testify* document. Email your written testimony/letter to the email address found in this document, as well. You must email or mail your testimony to the email address and mailing address cited in the *How to Participate, Register & Testify* document for your letter to be registered as part of the public record for the October meeting. Also, if possible, please share a copy of your letter with Laurie Weidner, RPEC Executive Director, at laurie.weidner@rpecwa.org.

Red = content you customize

Blue = New messaging based on the September 20th Executive Committee meeting

(date)

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

Dear Chair Conway:

I am writing to thank you and the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCC) for your consideration of both a legislative pathway to a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Plan 1 retirees, as well as a one-time three percent COLA effective in July 2023.

Your consideration of these priorities will resolve two immediate issues plaguing our oldest retired public servants. First, by inserting language in SSCP-sponsored legislation that will codify a trigger point by which the state will restore a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees will solve the long-standing inequity among the pension plans. Plan 1 retirees have waited nearly 12 years for a permanent COLA. Moreover, your consideration of another one-time three percent COLA for Plan 1 retirees will provide much-needed inflationary relief.

I deeply appreciate the one-time COLA you secured for Plan 1 retirees like me in the last legislative session. The COLA was helpful and provided temporary relief, as will the proposal you are currently considering. However, one-time COLAs, while deeply appreciated, are short-term fixes that never address the real problem: year-after-year the oldest retirees, who historically receive the lowest pensions, continue to lose purchasing power at a time when they need it most.

(Insert your personal story. Use “I” statements. Describe the difficult choices you make year after year because of the lack of a permanent COLA. Describe how you and your family have been negatively impacted due to the lack of a permanent COLA.)

Only a permanent COLA will help to ensure financial, food, and housing security in retirement. I hope we can count on you to include, in the bill under development, language to codify a permanent Plan 1 COLA and a one-time three percent COLA for 2023.

Sincerely,

Name

Street address

City, State, Zip code