

From: [MAUREEN WAR BROUCK](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Subject: Retired Firefighters of Washington constituent letter to be listed for the record at the SCPP 6-16-2020 Executive Committee Meeting
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:54:57 PM
Attachments: [June 8 Rep. Fitzgibbon & Mr. Smith.docx](#)

June 8, 2020

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
Chair, Select Committee on Pension Policy
Olympia, WA

Mr. Matt Smith, State Actuary
Office of the State Actuary
Olympia, WA

Dear Representative Fitzgibbon and Mr. Smith,

We respectfully request you to put an item on the 2020 Interim Select Committee on Pension Policy agenda. The issue is in regard to RCW 41.26.150 medical services and the payment of medical expenses for LEOFF I members that have been approved for payment by a LEOFF I disability board. The statute was discussed during the 2019 interim by the Committee and is still a major concern.

An Attorney General Opinion was requested and received by the SPP in 2019. The opinion outlined the Committee's duties, responsibilities and authority and advised that the Committee had no authority to instruct or mandate how a LEOFF I disability board must administer the board's responsibilities under the statute. Currently several LEOFF I disability boards are requiring the LEOFF I member or family to pay out of pocket for medical expenses regardless of the amount and then apply for reimbursement from the employer.

This policy places a real hardship on the member who may be in a hospital or nursing home or on a spouse who may not be well themselves and at an older age, often in their seventies, eighties and some in their nineties. We don't think the pre-payment requirement meets the scope of the statute or the legislative intent. We also feel that RCW 41.26.150 should be administered in the same manner throughout the state like any other statute. We don't know of any other medical insurance provider including PEB that provides the medical insurance for state employees that require a prepayment. Keep in mind that some of these expenses can be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

We further request the Select Committee on Pension Policy to submit a bill in the 2021 session to correct and clarify this inequity that creates such a hardship on so many members and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Richard C. Warbrouck
President Retired Firefighters of Washington (RFFOW)
206-406-9823