From: Larry Eriksenc <larrysueeriksen@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 6:53 PM

**To:** Office State Actuary, WA

**Subject:** Plan 1 COLA

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To the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP)

I'm a plan 1 retiree that has been retired for 28 years. I am now in a senior living facility.

Everybody from president Biden, Congressmen and women are very concerned about seniors and the COVID-19 and their living. The seniors are getting older, just like you, and their income keep dropping dramatically.

It seems to me that the Washington legislators do not support any help for the plan 1 retirees. The only thing that we received was our mandated vaccinations, by the federal government, and the local health departments.

3 years ago plan 1 received a "3%" cost of living wage, limited to \$62.50 maximum. All other working and plan 2 & 3 retirees received the full 3%+ retirement raises. This "3%" raise was the first one since a 1% raise several years earlier. That raise was almost an insult when the legislature voted several large raises for your selves and all elected officials. As you voted 2 year ago, 8% raise for the governor, 18% for the state Supreme Court and others.

There is a commission that suggests all of these raises, but you are the people that vote approval of the budget that includes these raises.

Like I mentioned above plan 1 retirees are the only people who have received minimal raises for over the past 12 years. Many of these retirees can not afford, thanks to the legislators, medical services, prescriptions, food, or housing. They are turning to Medicare and MEDICAID for help with their living expenses. Now Medicaid pays a minimum of \$3000 toward their living, food, on top of medical and dental needs and prescriptions. You are the people in the legislature that votes for the Medicaid expenses.

Plan 1 retirees are now about 30 - 35% below what the the cost of living actually is.

Before you vote on the budget would you propose a cost of living raise of 10%+ for all plan 1 retirees? If anybody needs a cost of living raise it's us.

The Social Security Administration is hinting at a 5.9% cost of living for SSA recipients. That still leaves us about 35% shot of what it should be to really catch up to the COLA.

Now it's up to you to Sponcer's a bill to raise all plan 1 retirees at least the same raise as SSA.

Thank your

L. Eriksen

## Sent from my iPad

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