

Halverson, Beth

From: Joan Helm <2jhelm@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Office State Actuary, WA
Subject: Plan I COLA

CAUTION: External email.

SCPP committee members

Thank you for your support of the 3% COLA for TRS Plan I retirees. This increase will be helpful, however, it does not cover this year's inflation rate.

I urge you to recommend an additional COLA for the TRS and PERS Plan I retirees.

I retired in 2000 with 27.5 years teaching experience in Washington state. Luckily I was able to supplement my retirement income by working part time until age 70.

I am an 81 year old widow, maintaining a home in Waitsburg.

Since retiring I have experienced the following:

- City utilities have increased by more than 60%

- County taxes have increased by more than 60%

- Cost to mail a letter has increased from 33 to 58 cents

- Increase of \$600.00 **this year** for auto and home owners insurance

- Pacific Power has requested a rate increase of 12.2%

- Travel to Walla Walla for basic needs now costs almost \$10.00 per round trip.

- In addition to the above there has been an increase in weekly trips to the grocery store.

Since my retirement the rate of inflation has increased by 64%.

Including this year's COLA, I have received a 10.5% increase in my retirement income.

With a loss of more than 50% of my purchasing power I urge you to support an additional COLA for Plan I TRS and PERS.

COLA increases and needed and appreciated.

Thank you for your service to the state of Washington and for serving on this important committee.

Joan Helm
PO Box 446
Waitsburg, WA 99361-0446

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.