

From: [Jody & Bill Lemke](#)
To: [Office State Actuary, WA](#)
Cc: [Berry, Rep. Liz](#); [Frame, Rep. Noel](#); [Conway, Sen. Steve](#); [Matt Groshong](#)
Subject: Permanent COLA
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022 12:12:33 PM

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The Honorable Steve Conway
Chair Select Committee on Pension Policy
P.O. Box 40429 Olympia, WA 98504-042

Dear Chair Conway:

I am writing to ask you and the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCC) to take immediate action to restore a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA) to Plan 1 retirees. 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. That said, I know that the SCPP is committed to ensuring equity in the pension systems. However, one-time COLAs, while deeply appreciated, are short-term fixes that never address the real problem: the long-standing systemic inequity that plagues Plan 1 retirees.

I retired as an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings after over thirty years of State service in 2003. My wife retired from teaching a few years later. In the intervening years salaries for both teachers and Judges have more than doubled from the amount of our pensions. While the State health benefits have helped us meet our needs in Seattle, many retirees are living on the edge due to the fact we remain the only systems without a permanent cost of living.

With the pay down of the unfunded liability in the Plan 1 pension plan on the horizon, the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) asks that you work this legislative session to codify, in law, a trigger point by which the state will fund a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees. I hope we can count on you to embrace this request and lead the path forward to legislation to finally fix this problem. Thank you for giving RPEC's request your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Lemke and Joanne Lemke
2572 10th Ave W.
Seattle, WA 98119

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