

**Wallis, Keri**

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**From:** Betsy Pernotto <betsyp1045@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 11:33 AM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** Letter to support a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees  
**Attachments:** Support for permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees.doc

CAUTION:External email.

Dear Senate Committee on Pension Policy,

I have attached a letter to support reinstating a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees in WA. I would like my testimony to be part of the public record and provided to all SCPP members.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Pernotto  
3112 Alderwood Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

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.

Dear Senate Committee on Pension Policy:

I am writing as a retiree in PERS to advocate for the reinstatement of a permanent cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for all Plan 1 retirees. As you know, the legislature eliminated a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees in 2012 when WA State was experiencing budget problems.

The lack of a yearly COLA is a real hardship on retirees. Can you imagine how you would manage your expenses if you didn't have a wage increase in 10 years? The legislature has passed a few yearly COLA increases, but inflation in the last 10 years has greatly surpassed the few one-time COLAs. In the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 36% from August 2012 to August 2022. It also increased 36% in the Western Region of the US for the same time period.

I urge you to right this wrong. The retirees in Plan 1 served our state faithfully for years and deserve a retirement that allows them to live without fear of falling into poverty. Please reinstatement a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pernotto  
3112 Alderwood Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-647-1752