

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Arleen Lancaster <timberlan127@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 8:56 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** RI State Pension Cola

House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Arleen Lancaster. I am a member of the Advocates for Pension Reform and Cola Restoration. I am a former teacher with 30 years of service. My town did not let us pay into SS. I am in support of bill H8193. After 12 years with no cost of living increases it gets harder all the time to make ends meet. My husband has gone back to work to help us pay our bills. Bill H8193 will definitely help us to be able to stop the constant worry of whether we can pay the bills. We need that 3% compounded cola. Supporting this bill will give you the opportunity to right the wrong done by the 2011 Pension bill. This is what we were promised when we went to work as teachers or state workers.

I would also like to add that I'm sure some of you look at the audience and think that there are very few supporters there. But I would like to remind you that we are an aging population. Many of us have health issues that won't allow us to get into the city to attend meetings. Many of us are working because we can't pay the bills on our pensions with no cola. Some of us have moved out of state because they could no longer afford the cost of living here. So although the audience is small; we are all watching. We are all voters. We do all care very much about what will happen. It is our livelihoods that you have in your hands.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,  
Arleen Lancaster  
127A Cucumber Hill Road  
Foster, RI 02825