

Honorable Representative & Finance Chair Marvin Abney and Fellow Representatives:

Many times in life you make decisions that become irreversible in terms of economic impact to yourself and your family. I had many tradeoffs to consider, both when I entered "State Service" and left. Compensation with the State paid much less. When I entered State Service in January 1984, the wages were several thousand dollars less than I had been earning in the private sector. The retirement package that was offered was a big factor in making this decision.

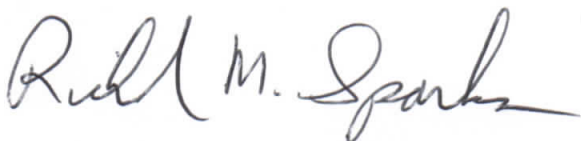
Making life decisions is a big deal, and I think we all make them via a process of cost benefit and pros versus cons. To promise a thing and give another is not right. For the "State" to renege on such a promise because it can is unfair and a promise unkept. I, and many others, never expected to have both the percentage accrual and the cost-of- living taken away after those life decisions were already made.

The financial impact to me and my family is drastic and it's too late for us to ever make up that shortfall. We have lost many thousands of dollars that will never be recovered. The least the State could do is make a partial amend going forward!

I hope you all can appreciate that pensions, without a cost-of-living adjustment, are completely inequitable.

Your support for this legislation would be life-changing for me and my family. I know you have many hard decisions to make and they all come with their own set of tradeoffs. I am hoping that you can find that this bill worthy of your support. Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Sparks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Richard M. Sparks