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To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony for H-6238

Testimony-House Finance Committee Bill H-6238

Since the passage of the 2011 RI Pension Security Act, 15,000 of those initially impacted have died !

This represents half of the victims, yes victims, of the most cruel and ruthless bill passed by the RI General Assembly.

It was completely unnecessary, alternatives were made available.

But most significantly it was illegal, in direct violation of Section 12 of the preamble to the Constitution of the State of RI.

Had any of the 203 appeals filed against the legality of this Bill been heard in a court of law, it would most likely have been ruled invalid.

But they were NEVER HEARD IN COURT.

Instead, the appeals were lumped together in one unit, with a closed- door, court ordered negotiation team assigned to reach a settlement.

How did RIRSA affect retirees?

It ripped away their guaranteed COLA (cost of living adjustment) for which they had paid as part of their retirement contracts.

It also set up complex and arbitrary rules for all future retirees.

It sentenced retirees to lives filled with anger, fear, stress, illness and depression.

It forced lifetime workers to decide between food or medicine, keeping their home or selling it for income, purchasing a newer car or pay exorbitant repair costs

It destroyed peace of mind, replacing it with poverty.

And, 15,000 died in this frustration.

**You, in this room, are not responsible for the 2011 law, and
you cannot change the past**

**But, what you can achieve is an end to this 14 year injustice, this 14 year
nightmare.**

The time is long overdue

**Don't allow the 15,000 remaining retirees from 2011, or any and all who
have or will retire from that day forward, to leave this world in poverty,
frustration and fear.**

**Legislate the use of the Pension Fund to finance a COLA for all, based
upon the CPI and based upon the amount each retiree earns in his pension.**

Pass H-6238

Sandra Marzilli Paquette

Advocates for COLA Restoration and Pension Reform