

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the RI House Finance Committee,

As a member of RI Chapter 94 Retirees, I am writing to strongly support H-6238, extending cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to all state retirees and beneficiaries. Last year, the General Assembly restored COLAs for those who retired before July 1, 2012, a much-needed step. As it happens, I retired from teaching at the RI School for the Deaf in September, 2011. I had waited the obligatory 3 years to start my COLA, and by that time there were no more COLAs. I appreciate that due to last year's restoration of COLAs for those retiring before 2012, I have now started to receive my COLA at long last.

The same relief must be provided for those who retired after 2012. These retirees served Rhode Island with the same dedication and paid into the same pension system. They should not be penalized simply because they retired later.

Rising costs affect all retirees, regardless of when they left state service. Without a COLA, every year chips away at the value of a pension we earned through years of public service. Please support H-6238 and give all retirees the fair treatment and financial security they deserve. Thank you

Sincerely,

Sheila Resseger, M.A.

Cranston, RI