

Chris O'Brien

From: Colleen Kelly Mellor <colleenkellymellor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:23 PM
To: Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Sharon Reynolds Ferland; House Finance Committee; Governor@governor.ri.gov
Subject: Long, Long Overdue
Categories: Red category

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Dear Legislators:

I'm writing in support of **H8147** which, with its pending amendment **Sub A**, would restore a 3% annual compounded COLA to the full pension benefit of public retirees.

I retired in 1997 with the state's written promise that I would have the security of a COLA for my future years, but In 2011 my retirement security was upended when my COLA was frozen by the Rhode Island Retirement Security Act.

I am 80 years old and I have done without my promised amount since 2011. Inflation has risen exorbitantly since then..

It's critical that our pensions keep pace with inflation going forward, because they haven't done so since 2011.

With **\$13.2 BILLION dollars** in the pension fund, there's no need to use public funds to reinstate our COLA. The cost of restoring a 3% annual compounded COLA to our entire pension benefit would be less than 1/3 of 1%.

Please support **H8147 with its amendment** and forward it to the full house for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen Kelly Mellor

retired Cranston teacher of 30 years.