

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Zachary Shepard <zacharyshep@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2026 3:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Bill 2818

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to strongly support Bill 2818. I am a young employee of the State (writing in my capacity as a private citizen). I am only incentivized to continue to work here if my benefits allow me to retire with dignity. Re-establishing the COLA makes it financially viable for me to continue my State service.

The State has a problem attracting young, talented workers. If benefits do not keep up, there is very little incentive for young people to become State employees.

I work hard and I love my job. But I won't be able to stay if I can't retire and support myself.

Thank you,  
Zachary Shepard