



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES

State Association Office

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Dear PARSE member:

This is a CALL-TO-ACTION request. We have been actively working with elected officials in Harrisburg about the economic difficulties retirees have experienced, particularly those who retired prior to 2002.

We acknowledge the ongoing challenge of the unfunded liability issue, but at the same time encourage those with whom we met to be creative in finding a way to help retirees. We have had over 15 meetings and I submitted testimony to the Joint Democratic Policy Committee – COLA for Public Retirees. While the stimulus funds received by the Commonwealth by legislation could not be used for pensions, we proposed possible use for stimulus monies for retirees. We have received a positive reception from all we met and acknowledgment that the timing is right to assist retirees.

Currently, two pieces of legislation have been introduced in the House and there may be another introduced in the Senate. The House bills are HB1415 and HB1416, both propose a COLA for pre 2002 retirees with different percentage increases. While it is unclear if these bills will move in conjunction with the state budget, we are encouraged that legislators recognize the struggles that pre 2002 retirees are facing daily. In addition, the Senate has been having numerous conversations around a potential piece of legislation and we are hopeful to see legislation introduced soon.

Given potential movement on HB1415 and HB1416 we encourage all PARSE members, regardless of when you retired, to reach out to your Senators and Representatives and ask them to support a COLA for pre 2002 retirees and look at creative ways to help those who retired later.

When you contact your legislator (call or send a letter), make it personal. Explain how long you worked/served the Commonwealth, when you retired and the economic challenges you are experiencing due to inflation and everyday living. In addition, you should also remind your Senator or Representative that you live in their district and that you are a member of PARSE, 33,000 members strong. I believe it would also be effective to mention that most of your pension goes back into the local economy where you live and helps his/her constituents.

If you don't know your Senator or Representative's name, use the following resources.

PA Senate: www.pasen.gov

House: www.house.state.pa.us

Elected officials are influenced when they are contacted by their constituents, your voice will be heard if you think about your message and present it in a calm and professional manner.

ACCEPT THIS CALL TO ACTION!

Sincerely,

Tom Judge, President, PARSE