

COLA COALITION REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREE ORGANIZATIONS

319 North Front Street
Po Box 11995
Harrisburg, PA 17011

November 2, 2009

Honorable (First Last)
PA House of Representatives
(address1)
(address 2)
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Honorable (Last):

With deep gratitude, the COLA Coalition, an organization representing the interests of hundreds of thousands public retirees in Pennsylvania, sends its appreciation to you and your staff. We thank you for your continued support of fighting for a very long-overdue and needed COLA for our state and local public employee retirees. Your attention and concern for our cause is well recognized by the participants in the COLA Coalition, and we consider you an advocate for working families and retired Pennsylvanians. ***We are especially appreciative of your willingness to co-sponsor Representative Pete Daley's Ad Hoc COLA legislation, House Bill 1970.***

As you know, a COLA is our top priority, and the COLA Coalition stands ready to work with the Legislature to help address the spike issue, which currently impedes the granting of a COLA. The COLA Coalition provides you with attached *Talking Points* that explain the need for a COLA. Also, your office should be aware of the National Institute of Retirement Security (NIRS) study that quantified the economic impact of public employee pension disbursements in all fifty states. The study concluded that, in Pennsylvania, public employee benefit disbursements provide more economic benefits to the citizens of the state than the taxpayers were asked to contribute to produce those benefits. The benefits of Pennsylvania's public pension system can be found at http://www.nirsonline.org/storage/nirs/documents/factsheet_PA.pdf.

Again, thank you for understanding the dire need for a COLA for our members. Please do not hesitate to contact the COLA Coalition if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Teachers—Pennsylvania (AFTPA)
Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Retired Faculty (APSCURF)
Local 668 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Penn State Retired Faculty/Staff Club (PSU retirees)
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR)
Pennsylvania Association of State Employees (PARSE)
Pennsylvania State Education Association-Retired (PSEA-Retired)
Retired Public Employees of Pennsylvania AFSCME Chapter 13

Enclosure