



Dear WSSRA Member,

**Our health insurance benefits are on the chopping block!** We only have one week to act. Please contact your legislators and urge them to maintain our health insurance benefits and ensure that all retirees receive cost-of-living adjustments this year.

**CLICK THE BELOW LINKS TO SEND MESSAGES TO YOUR LEGISLATORS.**

Our computer software makes it painless to send messages. It only takes a few moments and draft messages are already prepared for you to review and send. Please note that we have prepared separate messages for the Senate and the House, so you will need to complete the process twice.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING A MESSAGE**

- 1. [Click here to contact your Representatives.](#)**
- 2.** Fill in your name, prefix (Mr, Ms, Mrs, etc.), email address, and street address. It will be helpful to click the box that says "Remember Me".
- 3.** Consider personalizing the message. Then, click "Send Message" at the bottom of the page. Your message will be automatically sent to your legislators.

4. After you click "Send Message", you may be asked to verify your email address. Return to your email inbox, look for a new email from Voter Voice, find the code in the email, return to your browser window, and type in the code from the email.

5. [Click here to contact your Senator.](#)

6. Repeat steps 2 and 3.



### Where Things Stand

The Washington State Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on March 12. Last week, the House and the Senate passed budgets which differ from each other in a variety of ways. In the coming week, the House and Senate leadership teams will negotiate the final budget behind closed doors. Once an agreement is reached, it will be too late to make any changes to it. For this reason, it is critical that we contact our legislators and urge them to convey our message to the budget negotiators.

**The Senate budget** is good in that it provides a cost-of-living adjustment for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees in 2026 (all other pension plans will automatically receive a COLA). But it cuts health insurance benefits for Medicare eligible retired teachers, public employees, and school employees who get their health insurance through the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB). Currently, the state provides a 50% premium subsidy up to \$183 per month for PEBB Medicare plans. Under the Senate budget, the \$183 premium subsidy limit would be decreased to \$150. This would equal increased costs of almost \$400 per year for most PEBB retirees, depending on which plan they are enrolled in. We can't let this cut end up in the final budget.

**The House budget** is good in that it does not propose cuts to retiree health insurance. But it also doesn't fund a COLA for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees. We need to get COLA funding included in the final budget.

If all goes well, the final budget will maintain our health insurance benefits and provide COLAs to all retirees. Please help us make this happen.

Thank you,

Emmett Mills

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