

## **Eliminating the Statutory Cap on State Retirees' Annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) – We All Have A Part In This!**

The **State Employee Retirees Association (SERA)** is working hard to eliminate the statutory cap on the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) for state defined benefit (DB) retirees.

### **We need your help – and this will be easy!**

While public-school retirees in the original education employees' retirement plan receive the full 3% of their annual COLA supplement with no dollar value cap, the annual supplement for state employee retirees has been capped at a maximum of \$300 per year (\$25/month) since 1987. That is a significant difference! Approximately 85% of state retirees do not receive their full 3% COLA each year, and many don't come close.

The 'FAQ's' and 'Personal COLA Calculator' accompanying this will give you more information and help you to calculate exactly how much you might be missing.

Lansing member R Cole Bouck is leading a SERA letter-sending campaign for state retirees (current and future) to contact their legislators and the Governor. We say 'sending' rather than 'writing' because it has been made as easy as possible for you to participate. You will receive pre-written letters you only need to personalize and send.

**We need more senders!** Join us now in sending these letters to your legislators and the governor. It only takes a few minutes!

**What should you do?** If you are interested - and we think you should be, please email Cole at [SOMRetiree@gmail.com](mailto:SOMRetiree@gmail.com) – a personal and private email address; or send a private message to him using Facebook Messenger.

**What will he ask from you?** Your full name, the year of your retirement (if retired) and agency you will or have retired from (this helps us understand how broad our reach is), the email address where you can receive information, and a phone number (optional). If you are a dual state retiree household, please include the information for both of you. He will need your registered address **ONLY** if you would like help identifying your legislator and their contact information, and he would be glad to get that for you.

After that, you will receive the letters ready to address and send.

**Please sharpen your pencils and get in touch to help out!**

**R Cole Bouck**

2022 State Retiree - MDOC/ Treasury

### Attachments:

- FAQ's - Issue Overview - For Sharing
- Your Personal COLA Shortage Calculator