

Dear Representative:

My name is _____ and I am a retired educator from _____.
[Add something personal about your educational experiences.] I am also a member of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association.

I am writing to ask that you support Senate Bill 6 by Senator Ed Price. This bill will provide a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to retired teachers in Louisiana.

Most retirees have not received a COLA since 2016. For many retired teachers, their pension is their primary source of retirement income. As the rate of inflation continues to rise, the purchasing power for retirees will erode.

[You may want to include a personal testimony of how you would benefit from SB 6.]

Retired teachers have worked hard and supported Louisiana's students for many years in the classroom. We have earned our benefits, and we need our benefits to maintain our overall quality of life. A COLA would also allow retired teachers to further contribute to their local and state economies. National research shows pensions supported nearly \$6 billion in total economic output in Louisiana in 2018.

Funding for the COLA will come from the excess investment earnings of the retirement system credited to the Experience Account. This account is designed to specifically hold funds for a COLA. The funding for SB 6 will not come from the state's general fund. Essentially, providing this COLA will be at no cost to the state.

Again, please support Senate Bill 6. It has now been nearly six years since retired teachers in Louisiana have received a COLA. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.