



As you know, due to Governor Kemp's initiative, a process has been established and state funds are now being included every year to "prefund" COLAs, the first since 2009. These have resulted largely because of your persistence and that many of you have become active leaders. You also know that while we are grateful for this beginning, the process needs to be improved and more state funds need to be included in order for the COLAs to be meaningful.

What you may not know is that both the House and Senate appropriations committees are debating on how to help us more both in this current fiscal year and for next fiscal year. Your Board believes that now is the time for legislators and the administration to be reminded that the money we ask for is critically needed for many of us just to live our lives without hardship of any kind, let alone undue hardship that many of us have had forced upon us. You may recall that six years ago we sought to hear from those of you who initially found your retirement benefit sufficient to live in some comfort with dignity but were then (in 2017) facing hardships. We followed up with some of you the following year. Unfortunately, many of you were experiencing such difficulty and wrote descriptions that ranged from moving to heart-breaking.

There have been two major changes since 2017 and 2018. The first is that the cost of living has been historically oppressive the last three years further eroding our ability to maintain our former standards of living. Second, there are MANY new legislators and ERS board members and, of course, a new governor with new staff who have no familiarity with our situation. We believe it is time for them to hear our story.

While we welcome you to write a narrative such as we requested in 2017, we are offering you a simpler alternative this time, a survey questionnaire. Please complete and return it as directed.

We remind you that the survey software provides us your name and contact information. However, we pledge that this information will be restricted solely to GSRA board members with a need to know for follow-up questions. If reporters or legislative committees wish to contact you, and we believe it advantageous for them to do so, AND you are amenable with being contacted by them, we may ask for your permission to disclose your contact information to them. However, we absolutely will not provide it beyond authorized GSRA members without your expressed permission.

Click on the following link to login and begin the survey: <https://gsra.memberclicks.net/colaimpactsurvey>

Thank you for your participation!

Your GSRA Board of Directors