

Chris O'Brien

From: Sally Hubbard <sallyannslp@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 8:00 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony to restore our colas

Dear Representatives:

I desperately need your support. I need you to vote yes to reinstate our COLAS.

I worked as a speech and language pathologist for Coventry public schools for 32 years. I also provided mentorship, workshops and over-site to the Rhode Island Dept of Education (RIDE), frequently guest lectured at the URI's dept of communication disorders teaching inclusion, whole language and storytelling, and provided workshops to young parents and colleagues in the areas of speech and language development. Throughout my career I worked tirelessly to help and support the students and families of this state I helped graduate students gain hands on experience in the area of communication disorders and was followed by countless college students to "watch and learn".

During my career, I fed those children who were hungry, clothed those who were needy, supported Special Olympics, and gave all the love, nurturance and support that my students needed. I attended birthday parties, and parent's funerals, I visited children in their homes and in hospitals. I collaborated with doctors and specialists, obtained hearing aids and glasses through organizations like Shriners, bought Christmas presents and provided mittens and coats for those who were cold. I worked to help children get the very best support and education possible. Like so many of my colleagues, I was on the front lines meeting the needs of these students. I loved my job and knew that I was making a difference in the lives of RI's children and families. I also knew that I could work privately making far more money but believed this was my purpose. When I retired, I understood that I would not receive Social Security (Coventry didn't participate) and I made too little in other jobs to cancel Reagan's Government offset and "windfall elimination provisions".

But I trusted the financial contract that we in the state pension system had with the state of RI. I believed it would allow me to live reasonably well. Unfortunately that contract was not upheld and our monies were taken. Dollar for dollar the COLAS now line the pockets of Wall Street hedge fund managers, Ex Governor Raimondo and her cronies, and lobbyists. I retired in 2010, and have never received a COLA, have no Social Security and, as many of my colleagues, can barely survive financially. Inflation has skyrocketed and we are all left with virtually nothing. Friends are applying for HUD and SNAP. What was done to us is literally criminal. And no one cares.

So Please be our voice and support our quest to uphold our state pension system's contract and reinstate our COLAS. Please allow us to survive. We gave ALL to our state and communities. We deserve the monies we were promised. It is ours.

Thank you,
Sally A Hubbard MSSLP
North Kingstown, RI
Sent from my iPhone