

Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirement System

July 31, 2018

Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy

Chairman and Members of the Board.

Good Morning and thank you for this opportunity to address the Board. I want to keep my comments brief because I have a simple message to convey. I and many others have taken part in the dialog. There needs to be a discourse and there needs to be an awakening.

My thoughts and concerns involve those who retired in the '80's and '90's and earlier. They are the ones at stake. Our retirees built this organization and they are our heritage. They've provided us with the basis for everything we know. We will not jettison them. Any decision regarding COLA will be crucial.

First part, I direct my comments to our retirees. You need to know what's going on and never take things for granted. This is about you. Be involved and stay involved. Be a stakeholder because that's exactly who you are. Often, we fail to see what's coming at us from down the road until it's right there before us. Retirees need to take the wheel.

Second part, my comments to the active members. Absolutely, you have concerns and you should be concerned. You also have an obligation. Don't fault the retirees during the times of stagnant pay raises. Look elsewhere. You'll soon discover retirees are not so heavy a thing after all. Give it some time and you'll find out.

Forgo the hazy, vague proposals. Strive to find a common ground. I strongly recommend the Board not to reduce COLA to 0%. Because if we do this, we will seemingly abandon our retirees. No, we will be doing exactly that thing.

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Association President
Ohio State Highway Patrol Retiree's Association.