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HB 1138
In Support Of
State Retirement and Pension System – Cost of Living Adjustments –
Clarification
Appropriations Committee
Hearing: March 3, 2026 1:00 a.m.

Dear Delegate Barnes, Chair, Delegate Kaiser, Vice Chair; and distinguished committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) fully supports HB 1138 State Retirement and Pension System – Cost of Living Adjustments – Clarification.

We strongly support the passage of this emergency legislation because we believe it is imperative that data from all 12 months of the year be included in the formula that is used to calculate our COLA as was set up years ago. The closure of the federal government in any given month should not negatively impact the monthly pensions that we worked decades to receive. We believe that the legislation clearly explains the process that will be used to calculate our COLA this year and next to rectify the unavailability of data from October 2025 when the federal government was shut down. Leaving out the data from even one month could decrease the monthly pension payments for tens of thousands of Marylanders for 2027, which would then be compounded year over year as the following year's COLA would be based on a lower number than it should be, as well. This legislation should be passed immediately to ensure that pensioners properly receive their COLA's come July 2026.

On behalf of the almost 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge a quick and favorable report on HB 1138.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Elizabeth H. Weller".

Elizabeth H. Weller
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia G. Crespo".

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide