

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services
For HB 600

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 2:38 PM

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 8:00 AM

Nicole Hill
self
Austin, TX

As a Texan, I fully support legislation to give retired educators a long overdue cost-of-living adjustment to their pensions. I support House Bill 600, though I would say it does not go far enough. TRS retirees deserve a 10% COLA, something that the Texas American Federation of Teachers reports could be accomplished with an \$11.48 one-time lump-sum payment (<https://www.texasaft.org/schools-to-thrive/>). That is a drop in the bucket of our statewide budget, and it is even considerably less than the current budget surplus. Retired educators have devoted their careers and their lives to public service and to our children; the least we can do is take care of them in retirement — something our state has neglected to do since 2004, the date of the last COLA. I appreciate the provision in HB 600 that provides for an automatic COLA, something that most other states guarantee. I urge you to pass this bill on to the full Legislature.

Megan Vasquez
Education Austin
Austin, TX

I'm for HB 600 as a current educator in Austin ISD.