

Committees:

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Ways and Means

Member of the State Controlling Board



**JACK CERA**

State Representative

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June 28, 2018

Richard Stensrud, Executive Director  
SERS of Ohio  
300 East Broad Street  
Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43215-3746

Dear Director Stensrud:


It has come to my attention that SERS recently voted to give their employees, including executives making \$250,000-\$320,000, a 3% pay increase while freezing the COLA increases for retirees. This letter is written to share my disappointment in this decision.

The retirees falling under SERS were dedicated, hardworking men and women who served their communities and school aged children. These public employees were devoted to their employers – local school districts, libraries, etc. – working hard every day to receive fair pay and to earn a decent retirement benefit. They trust that the people they have in place at SERS are committed to the well-being of their membership, working to achieve a sound retirement for retirees.

The decision to give a 3% raise to a select few is frustrating and insulting to those that fall under SERS. Many retired SERS members barely make \$1200 a month and are scrambling to afford groceries and other necessities. They see rent, gas and utility prices continue to climb, while their benefit remains the same. Sadly, they now see SERS vote in merit pay for some people making 8-10 times what they do. If the retirement system is financially solvent enough to give raises to a select few, this action raises questions about the decision to freeze the COLA for retirees.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. It is my hope that the SERS Board of Trustees will rethink this recent decision and invest these dollars in the people who have worked tirelessly for these retirement benefits.

Sincerely,

  
JACK CERA  
State Representative  
96<sup>th</sup> House District  
JC/PDW

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Randy Weston