



# RETIRED NEWS

## Information for FEA Retired Members

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**1. The Equal COLA Act.** *What is the Equal COLA Act?* If passed, this bill would amend Title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes. Currently, FERS retirees lose a percentage of their COLA every year if the cost-of-living increase for Social Security is over 2%. This loss of income gets compounded year after year as FERS retirees lose ground against inflation.

- *Where is the bill now?* It is in committee. House Bill 491 is in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (and Senate Bill 624 is in the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs).
- *What can I do now?* Contact your Senators and House Representative and ask them to co-sponsor HR491 or S624, The Equal COLA Act.

**2. The House Passes the Defense Bill That Could Restore Bargaining Rights to Federal Unions.** The House narrowly approved its version of the fiscal 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill bars the Department of Defense from using fiscal 2027 funds to implement Executive Orders that strip civilian workers of collective bargaining rights. The bill includes a tiered military pay raise, but is silent on civilian raises. The prospect for this bill in the Senate is uncertain.

**3. Open Season for Changes in your FEHB.** Open Season for changes in your FEHB runs from November 9-December 14. The Office of Personnel Management is recommending changes in weight loss treatments, gender-affirming care, and maternal health care. One should check with your health insurance provider to see what changes are coming in your elected plan.

**4. The DoDDS Annual Reunion Moves East.** Every summer, hundreds of DoDEA retirees gather to catch up with old friends and explore a new city. In July 2027, the event will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yard. This annual get-together will include gatherings based on where educators worked, along with information meetings and tours of the city. For more information visit: <https://www.mydoddsreunion.com/index.html>

**5. Membership Chair Continues Her Outreach.** Alesia “Ms. Lee” Gladden is continuing her work to increase visibility of FEA-Retired in the workplace, and share the benefits with potential new members. Her outreach to a number of the stateside installations have already yielded positive results. Thank you Ms. Lee for your continued work in strengthening our Association.

**6. Protect Yourself from Scammers.** According to Consumer Checkbook magazine, everyone needs to have multi-factor authorization turned on when doing business online. Having your identity verified through an additional email or text is almost a necessity in a smart additional layer of protection in online money matters.



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