

THE SUN

Time to increase pay for retired state employees

There is another Legislative Session going on this year when our elected officials gather in Austin to decide the appropriation of State monies for the next two fiscal years. It has been reported by Comptroller Glenn Hegar there will be an estimated \$32 billion surplus.

Once again, like every Legislative Session since 2001, there appears to be no appreciation of Texas State retirees by the legislature. Not since January 2002 has the legislature appropriated a 13th month check or cost of living increase for state retirees. That is now 21 years and counting.

Being a State employee for 35 years had its challenges. Retired since 1999, there are greater burdens today trying to survive in this economy on a standard of living that was determined in 2001.

With billions of dollars in State surplus funds this session, it's time the Legislature appropriate a 13th check to support their State retirees. Something they have not done in over two decades.

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