



## Probation Association of New Jersey

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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## PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

June 9, 2016

Probation Association of New Jersey President Covaleskie today released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court decision regarding COLA's:

The Supreme Court ruled that Governor Christie was within his authority to remove the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) from pensions for public employee retirees. These pension adjustments are based on inflation, as tracked by the consumer price index (CPI) and with the passage of Chapter 78 in 2011, our retirees have been deprived of this important benefit.

It should be noted that our retirees' and current employees have paid into the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) and have not skipped a single required payment. Unfortunately, our current and past Governors have not made required payments.

New Jersey has one of the highest costs of living in this country. We know, as current and retired public servants, that it is difficult to make ends meet. This decision does not take you into account. This decision is disappointing but not unexpected.

My expectation of the Supreme Court and the current Governor was to do their jobs properly and follow through on their commitment to fully fund the pensions of our members and other government employees.

My belief was that the Supreme Court would uphold the law that Governor Christie enacted but then later argued against when he failed to make a pension payment, and let the Legislature legislate.