



OREGON AFSCME

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AFSCME Council 75 wants to voice our strong concerns and opposition to SB 489.

This bill undoes decades of past benefits for retirees. By eliminating their access to health care coverage availability thru their current employer based health plan. This is not a benefit that these members enjoy "free of charge" in our bargaining units the retiree is required to pay the monthly benefit charge which can be well over \$1,000 per month, and rising.

Some will argue that by covering the retirees in a group health care policy it raises the cost to all employees and employers because they are "sicker and in need of more costly services". Even if this is true we beg to ask what is the demonstrated problem and what is the proposed alternative?

Making health care available to our members after retirement actually assists in their retirement planning and allows long term, career employees the ability to retire knowing that they have a health care option.

If you pool all retirees health care becomes unaffordable and leaves them with few options at the end of a career. Make no mistake, we are not suggesting that these benefits be offered at no charge, across the board. But rather you simply reject this legislation and allow the status quo to remain in effect.

Allowing retired public employees to stay in the health care system they have had during their career is good business, good policy and the right thing to do.

I am happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Mary Botkin
Oregon AFSCME