

From the desk of
Rep. Bruce Hanna

Herbert G. Grey

Attorney at Law

April 19, 2013

COPY

The Honorable Peter Courtney
900 Court Street NE, S-201
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek
900 Court Street, #269
Salem, OR 97301

Re: PERS reform proposals

Dear Mr. Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

If a ship has a hole below the waterline causing it to sink, who in his right mind would place a priority on polishing the brass or washing the windows? That is exactly the case with the legislative leadership's current preoccupation with SB 822.

For the Legislature to congratulate itself about passing SB 822 in derogation of serious consideration of SB 754- or even the Governor's proposal for meaningful, sustainable PERS reform- is little short of irresponsible. SB 822 realizes almost 50% of its "savings" by deferring current expenditures until the next biennium and beyond, a course already deemed indefensible by almost every actuarial analysis that has evaluated it. Doing so actually increases future costs, further undermining the solvency and sustainability of the system. In the face of such nonsense, I applaud the courage of the Governor and the Oregon School Boards Association/Stand for Children (in SB 754), contrary to their own apparent political interests, in presenting serious proposals. At least they understand the need to keep the ship from sinking.

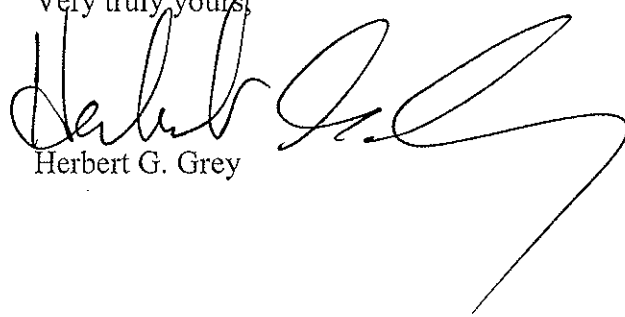
I do not come to this conversation ill-informed. I am an informed voter in HD 34 and SD 17. As my son graduated from Sunset High School last year, and my daughter is in her sophomore year at Sunset, I continue to serve as a member of Sunset's Community Engagement Committee, a parent mentor in Sunset's College & Career Center and a long-time member of the Beaverton Superintendent's Key Communicator group. On multiple occasions recently, I have heard members of the Washington County legislative delegation proclaim their support for schools, only to drive to Salem to vote for the very measure that will continue the evisceration of schools and other governmental entities.

I would like to think that the members of the Legislative Assembly are less focused on political expediency and appeasing powerful union interests than they are about affordable, sustainable state and local government. If that is not the case, there is no

point in voters increasing funding for any government entity, including schools, because doing so will only perpetuate the problem instead of increasing services or benefits to the public. Accordingly, I am also opposed to pending efforts to increase taxes by \$275 million- on top of the almost \$2 billion above the prior biennium.

Please plug the hole below the waterline by seriously acting on the other available proposals, decline the invitation to seek additional revenue and give the ship a chance to reach the safety of the harbor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb Grey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Herbert G. Grey

cc: Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Sen. Mark Hass
Sen. Bruce Starr
Rep. Chris Harker
Rep. Mitch Greenlick
Rep. Tobias Read
Rep. Jeff Barker
Rep. Ben Unger
Rep. Bruce Hanna
Rep. Mike McLane