

Testimony – Public Hearing on Retirement Security
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I am very fortunate to be an retiree who has a pension, Social Security and retirement savings. I retired from Portland Public Schools as a Principal's secretary after 22 years of service in June of 2013. As well as paying into PERS and Social Security, I also elected to have a small amount taken out of my earnings and put into a 403b. I do not know whether or not I would have funds left or been disciplined enough to put money into retirement savings if I had not had my funds taken out of my earnings before receiving my paycheck.

Because of this I am able to take care of my own expenses without public assistance or financial help from my son. I am a contributing member of my community. I purchase food, clothing, vehicle and home maintenance, fuel and entertainment by supporting local businesses and the people they employ. I pay utilities, property taxes, insurance (auto, property, and health), further supporting my community. All of those services keep Oregonians employed.

Even though most individuals will not have the ability to participate in a pension plan or employer sponsored retirement account, the proposed Oregon Retirement Savings Program would enable them to contribute into a voluntary system by having a set amount deducted from their earnings that can be taken with them as they change employers. As a result, many more retired Oregonians, like myself, will be able to continue to contribute to society and our economy and not be a drain on them.