

Subject: Oregon House Bill 3508

I am a part-time faculty member of Chemeketa Community College and I would very much like to see Oregon House Bill 3508 passed.

In 2006, the New Workforce Program for which I had worked since 1992 closed. It was a government sponsored program that helped people return to the workforce (people on Public Assistance, Displaced Homemakers, Dislocated Workers.) Because I had just turned 55 when the Program closed, I was advised to take early retirement from the PERS program in order to avoid losing benefits.

I did this, however, retiring from PERS at 55 after being in the system only 14 years provides me only a small monthly pension that barely covers my mortgage after I refinanced it.

This means that I am dependent on my part-time work to supplement or to make an income. I have been fortunate for the most part to be able to teach for the College and to make ends meet. However, the 'nature of the beast' is always in flux and the last two summers, I did not get the teaching work that I had previously because of canceled classes. This put a tremendous strain on my already tight budget. (For instance, there are months that I don't get a paycheck between terms.)

I was able to find part-time work by driving to Seaside to work at a hotel there, however, it was less than ideal - the distance and inconsistent hours made the work barely profitable.

Should the Bill pass, I would still look for supplemental work if summer courses were canceled, however, it would be a relief to know that this option existed.

Not everyone who is retired from PERS is double dipping. Some of us are making ends meet!

Thank you for supporting this legislation.

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