



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Workforce Committee
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice Chair
Senator Sara Gelser
Senator Tim Knopp
Senator Diane Rosenbaum

TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SUPPORTING SB 865
APRIL 20, 2015

Chair Michael Dembrow, Vice Chair Kim Thatcher, members of the Senate Committee on Workforce, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem.

I've come before you today to support Senate Bill 865. This measure exempts the surviving spouse of a fire service or police officer from county property taxes.

I want to thank Senator Girod for bringing this bill to my attention, and I'm proud to be one of its sponsors. Senator Girod and others here will provide you with all the details and information you need about why this bill is needed. I want to talk today about why this bill is important to me.

My youngest son Adam is a Hot Shot firefighter. He's battled fires up and down the coast, from Washington to Arizona. I can't begin to explain to you the feeling you have as a parent when your son tells you he's off to yet another fire line. I've had to ask him to stop sending his mother pictures of the blazes. Just a few years ago an entire Hot Shot crew was lost in a blaze. It is something I, and anyone with a family member in this line of work, thinks about every day.

The risk these people take on, both our firefighters and police officers, is immense. This bill is a small token of our appreciation and commitment. It is a way of showing the men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day that we won't abandon their families should the unthinkable happen.

Thank you, Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Workforce Committee for hearing my testimony today.