



March 15, 2017

Chair Kathleen Taylor
Senate Committee on Workforce
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Taylor and members of the Committee:

I would like to provide testimony in opposition to SB 913 and SB 560. My name is Mary VanHook. I've been working for DHS for 17 years. I am the primary wage earner for my household. As a Family Coach/Case Manager, this job becomes more stressful, challenging, overwhelming every day. We work with the most vulnerable families and so many victims of domestic violence.

Being on the front lines with some of the most vulnerable people you will meet takes a huge toll on my mental and physical health. We all work very hard to ensure that our families are given the support and tools they need to step out of the poverty line. Our jobs are not something we leave at the office at the end of the day. This is a way of life. The families we work with become a part of you.

In return for our exhausting work, you would decimate one of the things that keep us going. The light for me and many of my co-workers at the end of the long tunnel is our retirement. The constant attacks to state workers and our retirement is more fuel on a big fire that you have made.

SB 913 and SB 560 are unfair. I and my retirement did not create the unfunded liability. These bills will do little to pay down that money owed to the retirement system. Instead, regular, hard-working folks like me will have our retirements decimated. For what?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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