



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:

My name is Nadine Sandbo. I work as an Eligibility Specialist at the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments in Albany. I have worked as a public employee for about a year and a half. I am an SEIU member and I am here to testify in opposition to SB 913 and SB 560.

I recently finished my education at OSU which I had decided to pursue after become deeply concerned with the inequality I see occurring in this state. My passion was and still is to contribute to an effective system which promotes wellness for workers and the citizens we serve. A vision of collaboration, prevention, wellness, and even creativity that many of our leaders claim as their own vision for all those residing in our state.

Upon entering social services at the state level I quickly became disheartened by the work situations occurring for my coworkers. Though the intent and vision is wellness for all Oregonians, what is occurring in our state is far from it. Unhealthy working conditions, lower wages, and burnout are only a few of the issues our public servants are faced with.

As if social service jobs are not difficult enough, now workers are faced with an attack on their retirement funds. The attacks are extreme and simply unfair. Workers are faced with the potential to become the very population that we serve. Additionally, when you pass legislation like this, you risk placing those providing services in the position of needing services due to poverty levels of income in their retirement age.

Passing legislation like this communicates that providing services for Oregonians is not valued and will not be honored at the time of retirement. Devaluing our public servants who are already faced with some of the most challenging positions in this state. This type of decision is demoralizing to employees and creates a clear message to future generations regarding this states leader's priorities, what they value, and what type of culture they will promote for Oregonians.

This is not a solution. You've even said yourself that these proposals will not do much to mitigate the large unfunded liability. It is an attempt to

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push an issue on younger generations and avoid responsibility of an issue that we have had no part in. The answer is creating revenue, not pushing public servants into poverty during their retirement years.

Continually placing budget issues on the backs of working families is the reason we are facing our current crisis. I challenge you to create new solutions to this issue as opposed to repeating the same decisions that have created our current climate of uncertainty and insecurity for Oregonians. You should start with addressing the fact that we are dead last in the nation for corporate taxes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.