



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 Rhonda Morgan. I work at DHS in the Self Sufficiency program. I'm a case manager and I work with families in the domestic violence, cash assistance and ERDC programs. I also determine eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. I am an SEIU member and I serve as elected President of the OHA DHS sub-local. I am here today to testify in opposition to SB 560 and SB 913.

I've been employed with DHS since January of 2004. I actually started volunteering in August of 2003 but wasn't hired until January so I missed being in tier 2 by just a couple months.

I had been a stay at home mom for the previous 13 years and moved to Oregon with my 3 young children with basically what we had on and had absolutely no prospect of ever having an actual retirement fund. My youngest son was diagnosed with type one Diabetes in October of 2003. When I was hired by the state, I was thrilled to be able to cover my children with high quality, affordable medical insurance.

Now, its 13 years later and my children have grown and moved on to the next chapter of their adventures. I find myself living alone, and wondering how I will be able to care for myself when I am no longer able to work. By entering the workforce so late, I don't have a lot of social security history built up. Being in "Tier 3" all I can really contribute to my retirement is the 6% of my salary that goes to my IAP.

My manager has been with DHS in Gold Beach for just over 30 years. She started as a volunteer and has worked in the same small community all those years: first as reception, then as an eligibility worker then as a case manager and she is now the Opps manager for our branch. She was actually my case manager when the kids and I first arrived. She tells me she doesn't want to retire but she is very nervous about these PERS bills. She said "it looks like the state is going to be reducing my retirement with these bills. Why should I give more of my life to a place that's only going to take away from me?"

SB 560 and SB 913 would decimate my retirement and they are inherently unfair. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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