

February 5, 2018

To Oregon Legislature Representatives and Senators:

My name is Mark Watts and I have been the CTE Metals instructor at Centennial High School for 37 years. When I graduated from OSU in 1979 the Industrial Arts Program was thriving. A few years after my graduation the program was no longer offered. Because of this there aren't many of us left that are CTE certified. There is a shortage of qualified teachers in all of the high school CTE programs.

The manufacturing community has recognized the need for more skilled workers and has been active in encouraging high school students to pursue education to prepare them for the many jobs they have to offer. For this to happen, highly skilled teachers are in demand but are hard to find. The needs of high school students and the manufacturing community will be better served if retired CTE certified teachers are allowed to teach beyond the present PERS limitations. HB 3058 established adding retired CTE teachers to the PERS 1039 hour exception list in 2015. It expires June 30, 18. That bill helped hundreds of students. It needs to be extended to June 30, 2023. The need for CTE teachers has increased since HB 3058 passed. We need to continue to allow highly qualified retired teachers to return to the classroom as full time instructors without jeopardizing their position in the PERS retirement system.

I strongly encourage you to pass HB4012.

Sincerely,

Mark Watts, Instructor  
Metals Manufacturing  
Centennial High School