

*Good morning –*

*We were asked if we would like to make a statement regarding HB 3075 so I have attached it below. Thank you.*

*My spouse and I both work for the Oregon Department of Corrections. We have very different jobs and were hired for very different reasons. We take pride in our work and do our best to produce the best product we can at a level we can be proud of. We both get compensated for this work with pay and benefits. Taking away one person's benefits because we are married feels like we are being unfairly punished for choosing a career of public service where there are no bells and whistles; such as, bonuses or week long retreats for all members, the ability to work remotely, weekends and holidays with our families, predictable schedules (no mandatory overtime), etc. The compensation we get, we earn individually. The work we do is difficult. We have both been assaulted while working in Corrections. We both have been mandatorily ordered to work unexpectedly; sacrificing time and plans with family, we both have had to work all weekends and all of the holidays for many years.*

*Additionally, the Department of Corrections has a difficult time finding and keeping qualified staff. With even more being taken away, this will very likely make this even more difficult. The Department already has a staff wellness issue; which is why staff wellness is a major area being targeted by the Department for positive change. A lot of our health issues are directly related to Corrections for the above mentioned reasons and more. There have been many suicides and premature deaths and we have mourned far too many of our colleagues. These are sacrifices we already have made. Our number one job is protecting the public and we have a very good record in Oregon of successfully completing this mission in harsh circumstances. We trust that you see value in what we do and can understand the essential role we play and that we are just asking for our individually earned fair share that we were promised when we were hired. .*

*Thank you for your time.*