

March 19, 2019

Chairs Salinas, Vice Chairs Nosse and Hayden, members of the committee:

For the record my name is Sam Goss, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am a TMS2 worker in Lakeview with ODOT. My spouse is an office manager for Lake Co. ESD in Lakeview, OR. I love my job, and I have done this work for seven years because we provide a great service and safe highways for the citizens of Oregon.

I am here today to ask you to restore coordinated spousal coverage for public service workers like me, by supporting supplemental House Bill 3075. The decision to take this benefit away only from workers whose spouses also work in public service is fundamentally unfair, and will have serious consequences for my family.

Currently with my position with ODOT provides the insurance coverage for our family. My wife is semi-retired and is eligible for half of the ESD's insurance cap. Her insurance benefit would not cover our premium costs. Her employer provides a partial contribution towards her 403b in lieu of insurance benefits. This, in fact, saves her employer considerable money.

Removing our opportunity for contributions towards her 403b will greatly impact our ability to cover our insurance costs upon retirement. With the implementation of this bill, we will be adversely impacted financially.

The work that my colleagues and I do is important, and we don't do it for the money. However, when you take away benefits from only workers who are committed to public services, but not others, you are creating an inequity in our workplaces and making public service less and less attractive. Particularly for rural, remote areas such as Lakeview that rely on decent benefits to attract quality employees. I am asking you to restore our ability to make our own decisions about how our family is insured.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.

Sam Goss
TMS2 - ODOT
Lakeview, OR