



To: House Committee on Business & Labor
From: Logos Public Charter School
Re: House Bill 2838
Date: April 3, 2019

We write in support of House Bill 2838, which would allow retired law enforcement officers to be hired by schools like ours to provide much needed safety and security services. Often times, the best personnel for the job have constraints on their time availability because of current PERS rules restricting the number of hours a retired public employee can be reemployed per calendar year.

Our school, a public charter school operating in Jackson County, has had the need, in this age of scary things happening at schools, to hire personnel explicitly for the purpose of protecting our students. Nothing is more important than keeping our kids safe. It has been our pleasure to be able to hire a local, retired law enforcement officer, Bruce Kelley, to provide these services. His expertise in dealing with safety concerns has been priceless. He is familiar with our school, our neighborhood, and most importantly he is a friendly and known face for our students.

Bruce Kelley would be at our school full-time if he were able, but PERS rules capping hours worked by re-employed retirees prohibit him from doing so. His big fear is that something will happen while he is not at the school. Hiring an additional officer is not really an option since students know and care deeply for the consistency of talking to the same trusted person on Tuesday that they see on Thursday. That consistency is paramount to solving issues before they arise.

A qualified, experienced retired law enforcement officer is a good option for schools like ours, especially during times of tightened budgets and scary financial projections. This would allow more money to go to the classroom for students.

We appreciate that Reps. Doherty, Noble, Stark, Evans, Helt, and Sollman also believe that schools should have the ability to hire our retired law enforcement officers, to provide school security services, without having to worry about bumping against the hours cap each calendar year. We appreciate your consideration of this bill and your support for ensuring that our schools are able to keep our students safe.

We urge you to support HB 2838, with the -1 amendments, and vote to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Zimmerer
Executive Director
Logos Public Charter School