

## **Professor Traci Hodgson Testimony on SB 1049**

Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod and Members of the Committee. My name is Traci Hodgson and I am a history professor at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. For the last 21 years I have given 100% of my energy to educating students as they pursue a better life for themselves and their families. Yet SB 1049 bill proposes to give me less than 100% of my well-earned retirement in return. As a PERS Tier 2 member, I would see a 12.5% reduction to my IAP. This is a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to those that have already retired. That is unfair and illegal. I show up to work every day and educate my students. I have kept my end of the deal. I urge you to keep your end of the deal in return.

I am concerned not only for my own retirement but for the quality of education at my community college. 30% of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, we will have a rush of retirements and, with proposed cuts to state funding of community colleges, we will not be able to replace all those educators. It is already hard to recruit and retain qualified educators especially in highly effective career and technical programs like nursing, welding and computer programming. Those instructors accept significantly lower salaries when they become educators. In exchange for those lower salaries, they have been promised a secure retirement.

We do this work because we believe in our students and want to be there for them. Educator actions across the state last week showed how much providing quality education means to us. But that can only happen when the state's promise to educators is fulfilled. We give 100% for our students and we ask for 100% of our promised retirement benefits in return. Please vote NO on SB 1049.