

From: [Eric Beck](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: PERS
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 7:12:14 PM

I am a middle school teacher working in Bend. I've been teaching in Oregon since 2002, and am a Tier 2 PERS member. Before teaching in Bend, I taught in Northern California and on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. Being a teacher is an important and major part of my life - I made a decision while in grad school to pursue teaching after getting my Masters. I did this because I felt an obligation to give back to a world that gave me many advantages. I am passionate about impacting the lives of the kids I work with for 80% of my waking hours. I knew that teaching would not make me financially rich, but I did know that I would have a secure pension/retirement after decades of service.

SB 1049 has the potential to change all of that security for me. My retirement will be my only way of supporting myself after I am done teaching - teachers rarely have the ability to make large investments, and I am no exception. According to PERS analysis, my IAP would be cut 12.5%. This is a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to retirees. This seems unfair and illegal. I am working hard to do an important job, making way less than I could be making in the private sector, and honestly way less than I could be in other states.

I am committed to doing my job caring for and educating my students. I do this job and support my family as best as I can. We need quality teachers in Oregon, and this bill will damage both our ability to recruit more teachers and our ability to retain the ones we have.

Please vote NO on SB 1049.

Sincerely,
Eric Beck