



## Letter in **OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill 1049

To: Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
From: Michael Selvaggio, for Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs  
Date: May 14, 2019

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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS) represents line officers and sheriffs' deputies throughout the State of Oregon. We are the state's largest law enforcement organization, and are comprised of over forty local law enforcement associations around Oregon.

We come today in strong **opposition to SB 1049**, which seeks to undercut assurances and promises made to all public servants in Oregon -- including law enforcement officers.

Without restating the components of the 1049-1 amendments (which have not yet been made public on OLIS on the eve of a scheduled possible work session), our objection exists as both specific and overarching concerns.

As an example, the scheme to address actuarial liabilities through raiding personal funds is legally questionable. The fact that such an action would take a complex end-run around normal cash management procedures (by creating an inordinate number of accounts) should be a clear indication that the effort at least breaks the spirit of the law, and will certainly yield a substantial legal challenge.

But more fundamentally, this bill represents an effort to plug a public budget hole by raiding the hard-earned retirement accounts of public sector employees. Promises made to prospective employees absolutely need to be honored. Changing the schematics of a person's financial remuneration in the middle of a career is patently unfair -- callous indifference at best, and a kind of fraudulent inducement at worst.

Serving as a law enforcement officer is no easy task, and it is one fraught with sacrifice, commitment, and the understanding that there may come a day where one's own life is called upon to defend their community. Oregon's law enforcement officers know that when they begin their careers, and are expected never to shirk from that duty. They are not afforded the ability to renegotiate the terms of their employment when in a dangerous situation -- nor do they ask for it.

Your law enforcement officers stand in solidarity with all of the state's public sector workers who have performed their duties diligently and superbly, often in challenging circumstances, and who only ask for the compensation promised to them.

We ask you to honor the State's commitments as we have honored ours, and to reject SB 1049.

*Michael Selvaggio*