

From: [Cadi Brown](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 1049.... a First Grade teacher's perspective
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 7:40:34 PM

Dear Oregon Legislatures,

I am a First Grade Teacher, working in the Bend-LaPine School District, and a Tier 2 PERS member. *As a certified classroom teacher for the last 17 years, I am proud to serve, educate and empower our future students. After generations of teachers in my family, we have seen the rewards of working with youth and impacting their lives positively every day. The sacrifice and dedication that educators put into their work is honorable and testimony to the commitment that teachers have for their students. Thinking about my future, as well as my children, who are 8 and 5, a cut to my retirement benefits would not only hurt financially, but also feel like the promises made by our state was a punch in the gut.* SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making unaffordable cuts to my individual account program. According to PERS analysis, my IAP would be cut 12.5%. This is, in essence, a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to retirees. These cuts are unfair and hurt working people like me. I show up to work every day and do my job. I have kept my end of the deal. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1049 and keep your promise to people like me. 30% of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, we will have a rush of retirements and *with the increase of class sizes, more and more students with trauma as well as the disruptive learners that create a huge challenge in the classroom every day; SB 1049 could really take a blow.*

It is already hard to recruit and retain qualified educators when wages in Washington are 20% more than the Portland metro area. Many teachers have second jobs just to make ends meet. Teachers pay for supplies out of pocket, without a second thought and are dealing with some of the largest classroom sizes in the country. We do this work because we believe in our students and want to be there for them. We have accepted lower salaries and difficult working conditions. Last week was a testimony to the commitment educators have for their students as we turned out in force not for ourselves or salaries, but for our students and the programs/professionals that they deserve to have available to them. In exchange for lower salaries, we were promised a secure retirement and over the past 20 years that has been chipped away. Now you are asking us to take a further reduction.... fixing a problem that wasn't created by us. What a disappointment that would be, as I try to teach my students to make decisions that are morally right for the good of all.... educators are forced to once again swallow pride and take one (of many) for the team.

Please, do what is right and VOTE NO ON SB 1049.

Most Sincerely, Cadi Brown, First Grade Teacher, Bend LaPine School District