

From: [Jen Crye](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: PERS
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:26:19 PM

- Hi there. My name is Jennifer Crye and I am a kindergarten teacher working in Bend, Oregon, and a OPSRP PERS member.
- I have been a dedicated educator in grades K-4 for 20 years. One perk when I moved from Washington 14 years ago to Oregon in 2005 was PERS. My number one priority and truly my passion is to help kids. With continued budget cuts and also now the threat of having to contribute a portion of my retirement toward a budget problem that is not my fault is highly concerning.
- SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making unaffordable cuts to my individual account program.
- According to PERS analysis, my IAP would be cut 7.1%
- This is, in essence, a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to retirees.
- These cuts are unfair and illegal 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.
- People like me hired after OPSRP was created are not the cause of the state's pension debt. The 2003 system was designed to be sustainable and it is. But now you are asking me to take a cut to pay a debt I had nothing to do with creating.
- It is already hard to recruit and retain qualified educators when wages in Washington are 20% more than the Portland metro area and earn 22% PER WEEK less than private sector according to recent analysis by the Oregon Center for Public Policy. Many of us have second jobs just to make ends meet.
- Teachers pay for supplies out of pocket, 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 and last week you saw us turnout in force not for ourselves, but for our students.
- But 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Crye
Kindergarten Teacher
Bend LaPine School District

