

From: [Michelle McDaniel](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 1049
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:20:54 PM

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I am a High School Counselor working in the Bend-La Pine District and a Tier 1 PERS member. I love my job because I get to help young people on a daily basis and work along side amazing people who care about the future of our youth with all of their hearts. Oregon Educators are among the best in the Country and dedicate their lives to making the world a better place by giving the best of themselves every day to positively influence and empower each and every student they encounter.

SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making unaffordable cuts to my individual account program. According to PERS analysis, my IAP would be cut 7.8%. 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.

30% of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, we will have a rush of retirements creating a shortage of good, experienced teachers who are the fabric that holds our Education System in place and provide a unique perspective and invaluable leadership to those just starting out in this profession. Losing them would be like being orphaned unnecessarily.

It is already hard to recruit and retain qualified educators when wages in Washington are 20% more than the Portland metro area and we earn 22% PER WEEK less than the 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.

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.

Michelle McDaniel
9th & 11th grade Counselor
La Pine High School