

Good afternoon Chair ^{co-} ^{sen} Girod and Rep. Holvey
I am here to speak against SB 1049.
My name is Sella Bemrose. I am the Union President for the Classified employees of the North Santiam School District. We belong to the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). We represents over 22,500 members across the state of Oregon.

I just want to tell you what this looks like from my chair, in North Santiam schools. I wish I could say that the \$195,000 cap on final salary would affect any of my members, but you know Oregon isn't spending that on K-12 educators.

Instead, I have to look at the cliff that employees who make \$30,001 per year will fall off of, losing a significant portion of their IAP while those making \$29,999 per year pay nothing. The average salary among classified staff in North Santiam is ≈ \$30,000 - ~~30,000~~ per year.

Let's be clear. No one from my local union is making enough money to afford losing any part of the retirement *that we have bargained for*. We're talking about folks working two and three jobs to make ends meet, and it's the school district job, with the promise of a decent retirement, that makes the daily financial struggle more bearable. We have traded pay increases for reasonable retirement contributions, and we have joined the district in making sacrifices in tough economic times. We are members of this community, and we want nothing but what's best for the kids in our district.

But we also have to live. We have to take care of our families. We made a deal with the State of Oregon, that we would work hard for our PERS benefits, and we've kept our side of the bargain. We've spent decades "doing more with less," finding the best ways to help our kids succeed when we know there aren't resources, and striving to meet the promise of a good education for every student. We're sticking to that promise. I hope Oregon will keep its promise to us.

We are urging you to vote NO on SB 1049!