

From: [Wendy Talbert](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Cc: lemonblossom1@gmail.com
Subject: Senate Bill 1049
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:30:33 PM

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Capital Construction

Re: Senate Bill 1049

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Talbert, and I am a branch manager (principal executive manager C) at Disability Determination Services. I am a Tier 2 PERS member.

There were two main reasons I came to work for the State of Oregon:

1. Our work at DHS provides valuable assistance to Oregonians.
2. I trusted it would provide a stable opportunity for me to prepare for retirement.

SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making unaffordable cuts to my individual account program. According to analysis from PERS, if this bill passes, my IAP would be cut a dramatic **12.5%**. I have been a dedicated, driven employee for 17 years. I have made retirement plans based on my PERS accounts, including how much I contribute to my Roth IRA, my Oregon Savings Growth Plan, etc.

This is a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to retirees. These cuts are unfair, illegal, and hurt working people like me. The 2003 system was designed to be sustainable and it is. However, now you are asking me to take a cut to pay a debt that was no fault of my own.

We have agreed to lower salaries over the years to protect benefits. These reductions are a betrayal of those agreements.

This is not just about how this impacts workers like me though, it is about Oregon's ability to continue to recruit and retain a strong public workforce. Thirty percent of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, we will have a rush of

retirements, and our already overworked staff will struggle with workload issues.

As a hard-working employee, 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.

Sincerely,
Wendy Talbert