

From: [Jill Fang](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 1049
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:57:13 PM

TO: Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Capital Construction
RE: Senate Bill 1049
ON: May 15, 2019

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod, members of the committee,

My name is Jill Fang, I am a Quality Assurance Reviewer working at Disability Determination Services (DHS) in Salem, and I am an OPSRP PERS member. I have been working in public service since 2005, first in Texas and now in Oregon.

I know that the work I do benefits the state and my fellow citizens, and I find that rewarding. I also value the stability this work has provided, both my current benefits and the knowledge that I have a reliable plan for retirement. Having my retirement benefit threatened by the legislature as a means to make up for budgetary shortfalls is alarming and honestly somewhat demoralizing; this was a regular occurrence in Texas that I was hoping would not be repeated in Oregon. It pains me to realize how little value is placed on the work done by those working in public service.

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 7.1%.

This is 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. This is particularly galling because people like me who were hired after OPSRP was created are not the cause of the state's pension debt (not that pre-OPSRP hires should be penalized for budgetary shortfalls either, they didn't do anything wrong!). 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 that originated years before I was employed by the state, a debt I had no part in creating.

Besides, OPSRP PERS members like me already earn, on average, 88% of what we would earn in the private sector. We have agreed to lower salaries over the years to protect benefits. These reductions are a betrayal of those agreements.

This isn't just about how this impacts workers like me though, it's about Oregon's ability to continue to recruit and retain a strong public workforce. About 30% of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, there will be a rush of retirements and remaining staff will struggle with the resulting sudden increase in workload and our agency will suffer from the "brain drain" that comes with losing more experienced workers. This will negatively impact our ability to serve the people of Oregon.

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.

Thank you,

Jill Fang