

May 30, 2019

RE: SAIF testimony
SB 507a

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the Committee,

I am writing to provide comment on SB 507a. The current proposal provides coverage for public full-time paid workers employed as firefighters, emergency medical service providers, police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, and emergency dispatchers. However, there is no statutory definition included for "paid." The intention of the statute is to apply in a similar manner to the current presumption for firefighters, which applies to "nonvolunteer firefighters," a defined term currently in ORS 656.802(5)(h), as outlined below:

For purposes of this subsection, "nonvolunteer firefighter" means a firefighter who performs firefighting services and receives salary, hourly wages equal to or greater than the state minimum wage, or other compensation except for room, board, lodging, housing, meals, stipends, reimbursement for expenses or nominal payments for time and travel, regardless of whether any such compensation is subject to federal, state or local taxation. "Nominal payments for time and travel" includes, but is not limited to, payments for on-call time or time spent responding to a call or similar noncash benefits.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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