

From the Desk of
Rep. Margaret Doherty

Margaret Doherty

Oregon AFSCME asks for support of SB 272

AFSCME Council 75 strongly urges your support of Senate Bill 272, dealing with Assistant Attorney's Generals, adding AAG's to the list of strike prohibited units. We are joined in support by the Attorney General's office and ask that members support this common sense bill.

ORS 243.736 identifies a group of workers who are not allowed to strike due to the impact on our public safety. The current list includes Deputy District Attorneys, Emergency Communication Workers, Police, Fire and others in public safety. Should one of these groups get to the point where they would normally need to strike, instead they go through a binding arbitration process. AAG's work on some of the hardest and most important cases in the state. From elder abuse to child welfare to consumer protection, the reality of a strike would be extremely challenging.

The AAG's are already strike prohibited via the collective bargaining agreement, this bill simply puts it into statute. The members of Oregon AFSCME have worked with the AG's office who has been tracking the impacts of the non-strike provisions since they have been in the CBA. At this point both groups agree that this is the best policy to ensure stability and protect the important work the AG's office does.

For these reasons we ask you to support this very simple common-sense proposal. It received no opposition or no votes in either chamber committee and passed the Senate with 26 Ayes and 4 Excused.



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