



Chair Barker and Vice Chairs Barreto and Bynum please support HB 4108. The reason for this bill is that in 2016 a change happened the retirement benefits of OPRIP or tier 3 prison chaplains that was unintended. Tier 3 Chaplains lost a significant portion of their retirement. A portion of a prison chaplains' compensation is their housing allowance. It can be up to 35%. Until 2016 this was counted as part of their public employees retirement system compensation when calculating their final average salary. Both tier 1 and 2 of PERS retirees still have their housing allowance calculated in their retirement benefit and until 2016 tier 3 chaplains were. AFSCME asks that you make a change to the law to allow tier 3 chaplains to have their housing allowance counted as their final average salary. This will allow tier 3 chaplains to regain their retirement security and put them back in line with the other chaplains in our prison system.

While this is a relatively small number of our members maybe a two dozen, they have a huge impact on all of the thousand of workers in the prison and the adults in custody. They are some of the most caring and selfless peoples working in corrections and the impact on their retirement was never intended and has a huge impact on their lives and the lives of their families. Please undo this situation and allow our chaplains to retire in safety and security so they can continue to minister to people in some of the hardest place in Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted
Joe Baessler
Associate Director
Oregon AFSCME