



Testimony in Support of House Bill 4108

February 20, 2020

Chair Taylor and Members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee:

My name is Dan Weber and I am a Corporal at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). I am also the President of the Association of Oregon Corrections Employees (AOCE). AOCE represents about 800 men and women working for DOC at the maximum security OSP, the medium security Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) and two minimum-security institutions – Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) and South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC).

HB 4108 will fix an inequity that our chaplains have experienced for quite some time. It is standard practice that ministers working for a church receive housing as part of their compensation package, in addition to their salary. As chaplains working for the State of Oregon, however, they do not receive housing. We bargained into our collective bargaining agreement that 35% of their monthly salary is designated as a housing allowance under the IRS rules. While this helps with their taxes it harms their retirement by not counting towards their PERS salary calculation. HB 4108 will allow them to treat that housing allowance as salary for purposes of their PERS account. Other state employees have all of their salary apply to their PERS accounts and these chaplains should be no different.

The work our chaplains provide to the State of Oregon and the adults in custody at the Department of Corrections is critical and they should be acknowledged and compensated fairly for that work.

I urge you to support House Bill 4108.

Thank you,
Cpl. Dan Weber
AOCE President