



March 9, 2021

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee,

I write today as a professor of School Psychology, as well as the department head of Special Education and Clinical Sciences, at the University of Oregon. I also serve as the faculty trustee on the UO's Board of Trustees. In my role as a trustee, I have a fiduciary responsibility to the State of Oregon to ensure the sustainable management of the university; and in all of my roles, I have a responsibility to look out for what is best for the institution and the faculty who teach and conduct research here.

I encourage you to support the -1 amendment to SB 112, which will be before your committee on Thursday morning, March 11. This language amends the default retirement enrollment for unclassified staff at public universities from PERS/OPSRP (Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan) to the ORP (Optional Retirement Plan).

Currently at the UO, as part of the hiring process, eligible unclassified employees have the opportunity to select which retirement plan they would like within six months of starting their position. This opportunity for selection would not change; employees may still select the plan which works best for them. However, currently, if no affirmative selection is made, current law dictates that the employee be enrolled in PERS/OPSRP by statutory default. The -1 amendment to SB 112 simply changes the default to ORP. Again, and importantly, this language preserves the right of employees to select the retirement plan option that works best for them. It simply changes the default if they do not make such a selection.

This policy does not take any benefits away from any employee. However, by simply changing the default, the -1 amendment would, over time, result in measurable savings for our public universities. As a steward of the university's resources, I think this is so important. Every dollar counts.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts as a faculty member. Please adopt the -1 amendment to SB 112, and vote yes on the bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Lee McIntyre
Professor, School Psychology
Department Head, Special Education and Clinical Sciences
Trustee at the University of Oregon

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

877 E. 16th Ave., 5208 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5208

☎ (541) 346-2412 ☎ (541) 346-2897 <http://spsy.uoregon.edu>