

Dear Representative Holvey,

My name is Sarah Maple and I am a retired teacher from Alaska. After 20 years of teaching in Haines my husband and I moved down to Medford. Too young to retire, 48, I decided to substitute in the Medford School District. I did so for another 20 years! I was pleased to know that substitutes were part of the PERS retirement program. However in 2016 (as close as I can figure) substitutes were outsourced and no longer officially worked for the Medford School District. No one informed me that this would interfere with PERS. It was "through the substitute grapevine" that I finally figured this out and began the process of getting my retirement from PERS. I'm not sure how much I lost in not drawing my retirement but at least a year or so. When I spoke to someone at the district level, can't remember who, she brushed it off as there weren't that many substitutes who would earn a retirement anyway. That was a disappointing answer as you might imagine. So I've lost that retirement income from 2016 to 2020, almost five years! I'm sure this would have a significant impact on retirement earnings.

I appreciate the work that Debbie, you and anyone else is putting into HB 3130 to try and rectify this unfortunate issue. As a sub I know I worked very hard every day to make sure the students got the most out of their day as they would with their classroom teacher! I was very dedicated to the teachers as well as the students.

Thank you for your time and efforts on this house bill. If there's anything else I can do to help out, please let me know!!
Most Sincerely,

Sarah Maple
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