

Submitter: Patrick Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB631

This bill would support a healthy life/work balance in a profession that has claimed many lives and marriages of my coworkers. Our job as correctional professionals is often a thankless job that creates stress unlike many other professions, even those in the realm of law enforcement. The added stress of back-to-back mandatory overtime and the anxiety it creates within staff AND families is undue. This issue is unique to Oregon facilities and the department as a whole. I have nearly 20 years of experience with 10 years in a private prison setting in the state of Louisiana and in that environment, overtime was virtually nonexistent. It shouldn't fall on security staff to have to bear the burden of a system that is broken and cannot adequately staff its prison and its rosters. This WILL create unsafe environments (it already has) and become a public safety issue. I urge those whom this may concern to look at the security force within the DOC that is being utterly exhausted by this chronic understaffing and overscheduling. Thank you.