



Chair Grayber and members of the committee, my name is Joe Baessler and I am the Associate Director of Oregon AFSCME. We represent many workers that because of their extremely stressful and dangerous jobs fall under the Public Employee Retirement System designation of Police and Fire. Those members work in Corrections and other law enforcement areas and many served in the armed forces. This service is often in addition to the demanding jobs that have been deemed to need an earlier retirement. We support giving PERS service time to those that served our country and then work in some of the hardest jobs in the State

Many of our members are already suffering from extreme abuse of overtime and have a higher likelihood of stress induced negative health outcomes and any relief we can give them will be very helpful. We ask you to support HB2297 and offer this benefit to those that have served in the military and then gone on to serve Oregon in stressful and difficult jobs.

Respectfully Submitted

Joe Baessler
Associate Director
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