

## **Recognition of Hazards Faced By Telecommunicators**

Re: Support recommendation of approval for HB 2701 as amended and passage to Joint Committee on Ways and Means

**3/24/2023**

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Tran, and distinguished members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

My name is Vanessa Ogier and I am employed with the Oregon State Police as a Telecommunicator. I am testifying here in no official capacity. The opinions expressed here are my own and are not representative of any organization, agencies, or boards that I work with.

Thank you for holding a public hearing on HB 2701 which as amended recognizes the associated hazards with completing telecommunicator work.

The ability for dedicated telecommunicators to retire on par with those who share the same workplace uniqueness, such as police officers, is paramount for our health and well being. The same incidents that police units respond to telecommunicators are required to handle across a phone line prior to their arrival. On a daily basis telecommunicators are faced with extreme stressors, severe multi-tasking, unnatural sleep patterns, traumatic situations and other volatile challenges leading to increased instances of poor health. Including telecommunicators in this bill as amended is a tremendous gesture of support for our profession.

I urge your support of moving HB 2701 out of committee and onto the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with recommendation of approval as amended. Thank you for your time, consideration and for your public service to our state.

Thank you,

Vanessa Ogier