

Submitter: Jacob Riker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB631

SB 631

I support SB 631; "Permits employees of certain state agencies to refuse to work additional mandatory overtime shift scheduled by employer when employee has already worked mandatory overtime in same month. Prohibits employer from requiring employee to take unpaid leave or use paid time off to make up for refusing to work additional overtime shift, or from taking adverse employment action against employee."

As a correctional officer, I believe the passing of SB 631 would create improvements in the correctional work environment. Limiting mandates would allow correctional officers to have more time with family and friends, be well rested, reduce burn outs, and overall live healthier lives.

When correctional officers are forced to work 16 hour shifts back-to-back, or mandated several times in a week, it reduces the time with family and friends. This can cause an officer to feel unhappy and may cause tension within a household. Overall effecting an officer's level of stress, and motivation.

The mandates cause officers to barely have 8 hours between shifts, leaving them exhausted. They are limited on the time spent on personal care, like eating, socializing, and sleeping. When an officer is exhausted, they are more likely to be unaware, or physically capable to act in a timely or logical manner. This can create a danger to an officer, as well as adults in custody under their supervision. SB 631 if passed will help reduce burn outs. These burn outs cause officers to regret coming to work, or in some cases lead to officers quitting. Which overall leads to more mandates.

Overall, if the amount of overtime is reduced, it'll allow officers an opportunity to live healthier and happier lives. It will reduce stress, lower the chances of injury while working, allow more time with family and friends, create a happier environment for the officers and AICs.

This personally effects myself, coworkers, and the people close to me. I want to work in a better work environment. I want to see people enjoy work. I want Oregon Department of Corrections to be a workplace that promotes a healthier way of living. I want to be able to recommend Oregon Department of Corrections to people who are interested.

SB 631 will change people's lives for the better, it will create a stronger workforce. I believe this will be a big step towards a better future.