



February 5, 2024,

Chair Grayber, Vice-chairs Lewis and Tran, and members of the Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

For the record, my name is Allen Iverson, and I'm a member of Oregon AFSCME working within the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. I am writing to express and urge your support for HB 4045 which lowers the age of current P&F OPSRP employees from 60 to 55 and creates a new "Hazardous" category within PERS for employees of the Oregon State Hospital who have direct contact with patients and 911 operators. This bill has various components but I want to shed light on one specific portion which directly impacts the life of my coworkers who are also your state employees.

At the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, I often work with AICs with sharp, dangerous hand and power tools. Most people who start a career and work from 20-25 have reached the age of 45-50. I retired from the military at the age of 21. If I work for another 20 years for ODOC that would put me at 60. If I could get the retirement benefits at 55, then I would have time to enjoy my golden years with my grandkids.

I strongly urge your support on this matter and appreciate your consideration of this bill. We have physically demanding roles and the job is increasingly risky for these workers who are of older age and those they serve. Please pass HB 4045.

Thank you for your time,

Allen Iverson