



## Gresham Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 1062



Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Lewis, members of the committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

I am writing to show support for House Bill 4045 which is before your committee.

I fully support the entire bill, and the creation of a hazardous category is much needed for the workers at the state hospital and 911 operators throughout the state. District Attorneys need to be classified as police officers as the bill provides. These are all critical components to our public safety system, and it is time to provide the retirement security that these employees deserve.

Specific to the firefighters, the age adjustment for retirement age is long overdue. It does a disservice to the public to have firefighters and police officers work until they are 60 years old if they do not have 25 years of service. In Oregon, if you are hired after the age of 35 you would need to complete 25 years of service and be 60 years old before you can retire. As a fire fighter in a busy department the toll it takes on us both mentally and physically compounds the older we get. I cannot imagine working to sixty and being able to be what I need to be for the community I serve.

The attraction and retention is a problem we are also facing in our department as more and more information comes out about our cancer rates, life expectancies etc. This is needed to help augment this ever-growing issue.

Oregon firefighters, District Attorneys, 911 operators, and state hospital workers have had the backs of the Oregonians every day, and we ask that Oregonians now stand with us.

Please pass House Bill 4045 out of committee on a unanimous vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you as always,

Kevin Larson, President

IAFF Local 1062  
Gresham Professional Fire Fighters