



**Carla C. Piluso**  
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RE: House Bill 2786-3

Chair Barker and members of the committee:

My name is Carla Piluso, and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham. I am writing in support of HB 2786 with the -3 amendment.

This bill is designed to fix an omission from the police and fire designation of our PERS program. We in the legislature have long defined Deputy District Attorneys as critical public safety employees. They are considered so critical to the basic functioning of our public safety system that they are prohibited from striking.

However, unlike every other category of employee prohibited from striking, Deputy District Attorneys are in the general service category of PERS, rather than police and fire. And the list of entities who are in the police and fire category of PERS includes several who are not prohibited from striking in ORS 238.005. This obvious anomaly has persisted long enough and should be corrected.

I hope to see this change to the law help in our efforts to recruit and retain a more diverse group of public safety employees for long term service in Oregon. Unfortunately, we often see Deputy District Attorneys leave after only a few years of service due level of stress they experience on the job. High turnover hurts the efficacy of our criminal justice system

Deputy District Attorneys are not elected District Attorneys – they are on the ground working to provide public safety and victim support. I know they work tirelessly, day and night, on long hours and in often dangerous situations to provide our community with a critical public safety service. They help victims navigate what is likely one of the most difficult times of their lives. I'm am pleased to support their entry on a prospective basis as members of the police and fire tier of our PERS system.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso  
Oregon State Representative, House District 50