

**From:** [Julie Sowerby](#)  
**To:** [JWMCC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** PERS Problem  
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- I am a kindergarten teacher, working in Bend, Oregon, and a Tier 2 PERS/IAP member.
- *My job means the world to me. I am in my 19th year as a teacher and still have at least 15 years of teaching left to go. I am the one with the stable income in my family so I end up paying all the bills. If I have to have my retirement benefit cut, I will need to have more money taken out for a different retirement benefit which means less take home pay and not enough to support my husband and two kids. Please consider the following:*
- SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making unaffordable cuts to my individual account program.
- According to PERS analysis, my IAP would be cut 12.5%
- This is, in essence, a tax on my retirement benefits to pay the state's obligation to retirees.
- These cuts are unfair and illegal and hurt working people like me.
- I show up to work every day and do my job. I work well beyond my regular work hours and come in on the weekends to make sure I am prepared for my kids. I have kept my end of the deal. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1049 and keep your promise to people like me.

#### FOR EDUCATORS:

- It is already hard to recruit and retain qualified educators when wages in Washington are 20% more than the Portland metro area and earn 22% PER WEEK less than private sector according to recent analysis by the Oregon Center for Public Policy.
- With our inclusion model, we are seeing more and more children on IEP's WITHOUT proper support staff.
- Teachers pay for supplies out of pocket, are dealing with some of the largest classroom sizes in the country.
- We do this work because we believe in our students and want to be there for them. We have accepted lower salaries and difficult working conditions and last week you saw us turnout in force not for ourselves, but for our students.
- But in exchange for lower salaries, we were promised a secure retirement and over the past 20 years that has been chipped away. Now you are asking us to take a further reduction.

Please support our retirement system and don't make us pay for the mistakes of others!

Sincerely,  
Julie Sowerby

***Julie Sowerby***

K-8 Facilitator  
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