

From: [Lindsey M Pierce](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Impact of Senate Bill 1049
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 4:47:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

I am the Enrollment Services Coordinator at Clackamas Community College and an OPSRP PERS member. I have been working in community colleges for my entire career so far as a young professional, about eight years. I have intentionally chosen to work in community colleges because I believe in their open access mission of serving anyone from any background, helping them to reach their educational and career goals. I have also chosen to work in public service because of the relatively generous benefits and fair pay they offer, but the proposed cuts to education in Oregon make me question that choice. Not only will these cuts have a negative impact on students, especially the most vulnerable populations, it will also have an impact on dedicated employees like me who have committed ourselves to careers in public education. We are fairly altruistic people, but we cannot be expected to keep pursuing this work when our pay, benefits, and working conditions continue to worsen.

SB 1049 harms my retirement security by making significant cuts to my individual account program (IAP). According to PERS analysis, my IAP would be cut by 7.1%. 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 hardworking people like me. I work full-time and perform my job exceptionally well. 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. Thirty percent of my colleagues are eligible to retire today. If SB 1049 passes, we will have a rush of retirements, which could significantly reduce our capacity to serve the community in all the ways we are expected to do, and it would crush the morale of those who have to pick up the burden.

People like me, hired after OPSRP was created, are not the cause of the state's pension debt. The 2003 system was designed to be sustainable, and it is. But now we are being asked to take a cut to pay a debt we had nothing to do with creating. We do this work because we believe in our students and want to be there for them. We have accepted humble salaries and challenging working conditions, and last week you saw us turn out in force for our students. But in exchange for these sacrifices, we were promised a secure retirement, and over the past 20 years that has been chipped away. Please don't ask us to make another sacrifice.

Thank you for voting in favor of students, public service employees, and the larger community that benefits so much from public education.

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