



February 18, 2015

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair  
House Committee on Business and Labor

Chair Holvey and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor, I am Allan MacLean, Council Representative for Oregon AFSCME. Prior to working for Oregon AFSCME, I worked as a Correctional Officer for the Oregon Department of Corrections at the Snake River Correctional Institution for almost eleven years. I am here to testify in support of HB 2807 and answer any questions you may have.

I represent eight Community College Instructors, employed by Treasure Valley Community College, who teach Inmates at the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, Oregon. Almost three years ago, when I began working for Oregon AFSCME, the instructors began asking me questions about their PERS benefits. They asked why all of the ODOC employees, including clerical workers, maintenance workers, and others, receive PERS Police and Fire benefits while they do not. HB 2807 is a result of the TVCC Instructors' questions, and requests to be treated the same as the ODOC employees working in the prison.

The TVCC Instructors at SRCI provide needed and required education to Inmates in Adult Basic Education Instruction. This includes English as a Second Language, instruction for Inmates with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs, and instruction to enable Inmates to receive a GED.

In the classroom environment, the instructors have up to 20 to 30 Inmates in a class. The Inmate students have been convicted of crimes including Murder, Rape, Sex Offenses, and Drug Offenses. Some are members of a Security Threat Group (Gangs). The instructors work in a secluded area with no telephone, radio, or surveillance cameras – only a Body Alarm to signal for help, if needed. There is a Correctional Officer responsible to check in on them occasionally. However, that Officer has other duties at the same time including supervising the Inmate Barber Shop (where the Inmates have access to dangerous tools), and supervising the Inmate Medication Line.

In addition to the dangers of working with sometimes-violent felons, the instructors are also susceptible to the various Health issues related to working in the prison environment, including HEP C and HIV.

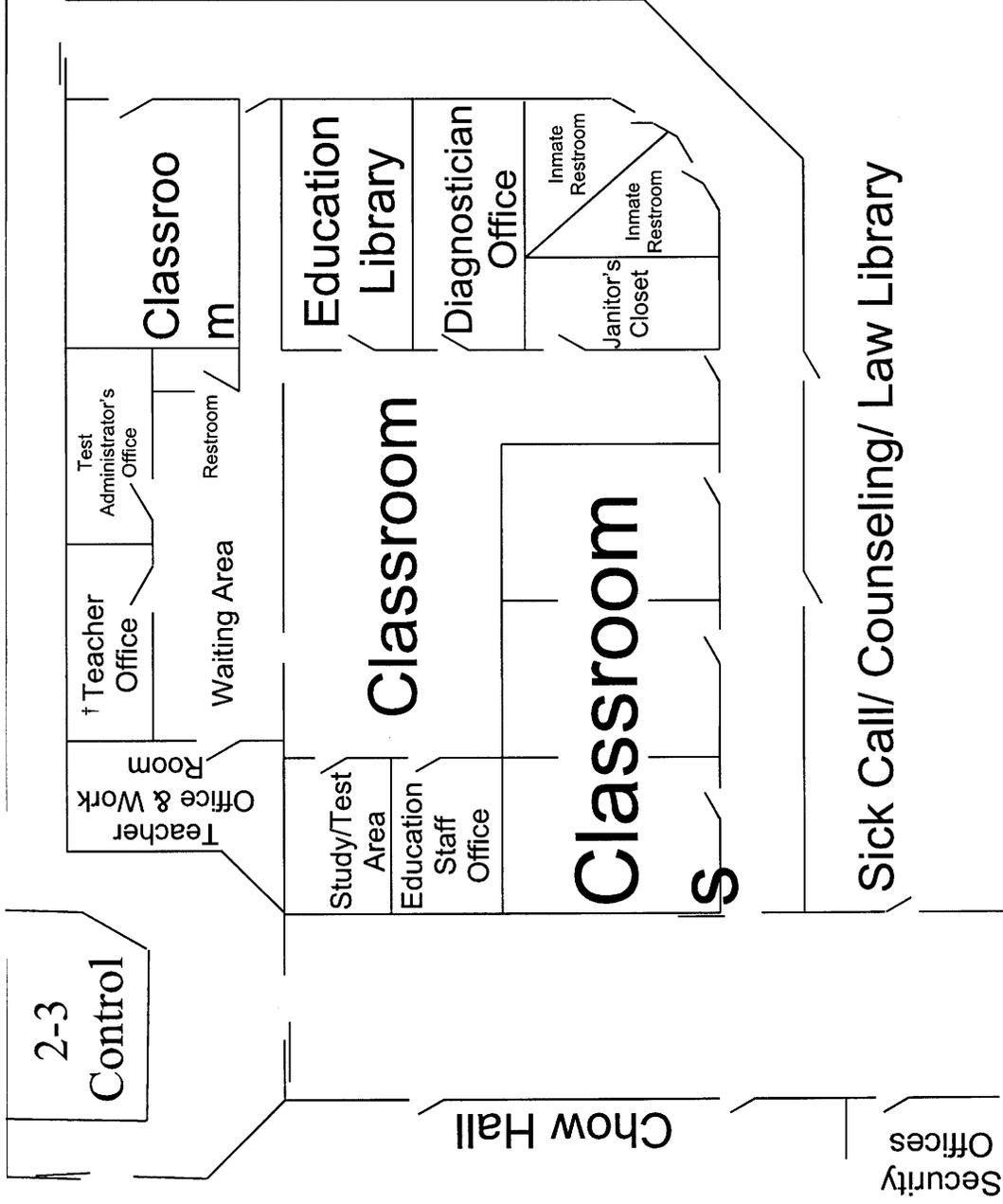
As an example of the physical danger the instructors are exposed to, on June 3, 2001, TVCC employee Jayne Froeming was working at SRCI in the Complex 2 Education area. At 10:00 am, Inmate Abel Cano-Sanchez appeared in Ms. Froeming's office and grabbed her by the arms. Ms. Froeming fought off Inmate Cano-Sanchez repeatedly and escaped the office while activating her Body Alarm. The Inmate had a shoelace with him and later admitted to intending to tie-up Ms. Froeming and rape her. Cano-Sanchez was charged with Attempted Rape and his sentence was extended as a result (Note: Inmate Sanchez was already serving time for a rape conviction). After the incident, it was discovered that the Inmate did not have authorization to be in the Complex 2 Education area, his housing assignment was in Complex 2, and he went to the Education area because he knew it was a secluded area – he went there intending to commit rape.

The Community College instructors should be covered by PERS Police and Fire benefits as are ODOC employees working within the prison environment as they are exposed to the same inherent dangers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Submitted by:  
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# Complex 3



\* Complex 2 is a mirror image of the diagram shown above.

† Incident Location  
Ms. Froeming's Office

# Complex 1

