

Chair Taylor & Members of the Committee:

I'm Dennis Erickson  
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I am here to testify in opposition to SB 560, particularly the emergency clause which is part of Amendment 3 and Amendment 10.

I've worked the past 38 years for Washington County Community Corrections, the majority of it in a senior management position.

I notified my employer several months ago of my intent to retire November 30, 2017. I did this in order to allow for the selection of my replacement and the smooth transition of my duties and responsibilities. This is intended to allow my employer adequate time to recruit and train a new manager.

I now face a dilemma. Do I honor the November 30, 2017 retirement commitment I made to my employer in good faith or do I retire on April 30th or May 31st in order to avoid the impact on my retirement benefit caused by the emergency clause?

This is a far bigger issue than just me. Many Oregon public agencies face the real prospect of the loss of vast institutional knowledge without adequate time to fill these positions because senior staff are forced to either gamble with their retirement benefit or retire in a matter of weeks. It doesn't have to be this way.

I ask the Members of this Committee to strike the emergency clause from this bill and allow for an orderly transition of senior staff contemplating their retirement.

Thank you,

Dennis Erickson