My name is Irene Carrillo and I am full time classified employee at Clackamas Community College. I have been fortunate enough to have started working here in 1997 and as a result, I am a Tier 2 PERS member.

Very few people are as fortunate as me to have started on a career path so young. This career path in an educational setting has allowed me to save and look forward to retirement. After working almost 22 years here, I have been reviewing my retirement to ensure that when the time comes, I will be able to have a comfortable retirement. I don't want to be one of those retirees who has to come back to work because they can't survive on their retirement benefits.

If my retirement were to be cut, I would not be able to retire as planned, and my worst fear would come true... I would end up coming to work like so many other Oregonians. 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 have kept my end of the deal. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1049 and keep your promise to people like me. Currently, 30% of my colleagues are eligible to retire. If SB 1049 passes, we will have a rush of retirements and Say how it will affect your workplace.

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.

I urge you to please advocate for me and all the other Oregonians who have worked so hard planning for their retirement. I thank you in advance for reading my letter and I trust that you will vote NO on SB 1049! If you have any questions or need to reach me, my number is (503) 594-3433, or (503) 927-3069.

Respectfully,

## Irene Carríllo

Irene Carrillo Rapid Response Coordinator/Workforce Advisor Clackamas Community College

## **Workforce Development Services** 19600 Molalla Ave, Oregon City, OR 97045

503-594-3433 • <u>irenec@clackamas.edu</u> Clackamas Community College

?

Education That Works • www.clackamas.edu