

**Paul L Evans**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 20**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

January 22, 2023

The Honorable Kathleen Taylor, Chair  
Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly  
Oregon State Capitol

Ref: Support for Senate Bill 403

Chair Taylor:

I write this letter as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 403 (SB 403). SB 403 would, if enacted, provide law enforcement officers with an increasingly important benefit: the opportunity to participate in a group benefits plan offered by the Public Employee's Benefit Board without a premium increase. Right now, some law enforcement professionals face a hard choice: stay on the job to keep health care benefits or retire knowing they must go to the open market for gap coverage until they reach the "normal retirement" age spelled out in law, rule, and policy.

This bill recognizes the importance of providing law enforcement professionals with the care they need. For some, this policy will act as an incentive for choosing the profession. For others, this gap coverage will provide added security for them to continue in the profession with the knowledge that they have it if they need it. For others, it will help reassure them a badly needed transition after decades spent in a challenging environment is possible. We can all agree we do not need or want law enforcement professionals in this challenging environment when they know it's time to hang it up.

As a retired US Armed Forces officer, I know firsthand the dangers of misaligned incentive structures. Keeping people past the time, they know they should move on puts people at unnecessary risk. We don't want our front-line law enforcement professionals working solely for healthcare or compensation. We need folks who are serving because they want to serve – professionals who we trust to give 100% until they can't – professionals that aren't punished because they have given everything they have before an arbitrary age.

Thank you for considering SB 403. I truly believe this is an important measure that warrants our support. Please let me know if you require additional information or have questions about my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".

Cc: Senate Committee on Labor and Business