

Submitter: Liesel Grolbert

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General  
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2701

Liesel Grolbert  
Clackamas County Communications

I am writing this statement in favor and support of House Bill 2701 and in favor and support of my fellow Telecommunicators.

I have been working in this career for just over four years. This may seem like a short time when compared to some, but in my time here I have been through many critical events both in our local and global history. I have watched many of my colleagues burn out and find new career paths, and I have seen strong people retire from this job after many years of service with pride in having served their communities. I support this bill because I would like to see much more of the latter.

In my time here I have had to work through Covid-19 and show up to the office everyday even before we knew what the effects of it could be, not knowing how being around other people could affect my family at home. I have had to come into work when there were wildfires approaching my communication center and then evacuate to another building working at a makeshift console next to coworkers who weren't sure if their homes were still standing.

I have sent help and given aid in many circumstances. I have prepared a father to deliver his baby. I have comforted a wife who just found her husband deceased. I have helped a whispering child lost in the forest face to face with a bear. I have listened. I have been a cheerleader. I have been the calm in the storm. I am asking you to do the same for me. I am asking you to recognize that I too am a first responder and I would like the opportunity to retire with strength and pride.

Thank you for your time.