

Call for Testimony for HB 2701

Greetings Fellow 911 Employees and Supporters of 911 Staff,

As you may know, the Oregon Legislature is taking up a bill, [HB 2701](#), to improve the retirement of 911 telecommunicators¹. This is something that has been in progress since at least the mid 90's and has seen incremental successes with the early retirement for Tier 1 and Tier 2 employees with a reduced benefit with 25 years of service in 2005 and the state of Oregon recognizing telecommunicators as 911 dispatchers in 2021. This bill is taking a different approach and asking for a high risk pool of employees to have a separate PERS fund and allow for a full retirement.

This is something that would benefit telecommunicators throughout the state. However, it is not something that any single person, any single PSAP or any single union can do alone.

There are a number of ways to help bring this bill to law. The first is to testify, written, verbally visually or verbally in person at the Capitol in Salem. The hearing is tomorrow March 30th at 1300.

WRITTEN Testimony - Can be submitted up to Saturday April 1st at 1300 via [this site](#).

Some helpful hints for written testimony:

- Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony.
- DO NOT include personal information that you do not want displayed to the public.
- All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted form, except for your email, are posted to OLIS and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

VERBAL Testimony - You can register to give verbal testimony virtually or In Person by clicking "Register to testify" option [here](#)

To prepare your testimony, you may want to follow this outline for preparing your statement:

- 1) Identify yourself and the organization you represent (if applicable)
- 2) Greetings
- 3) Clear presentation of your position: State your position as "for" or "against" the proposed bill; identify the bill name and number
- 4) Factual arguments and data as evidence to support your position, if available
- 5) Personal story or anecdotes to demonstrate your position. This is often the most powerful part.
- 6) Conclusion: Restate/review your position at the end of your testimony

¹ Telecommunicator is defined in ORS as "person employed by a 9-1-1 jurisdiction whose primary duties are receiving, processing and transmitting public safety information received during an emergency call delivered through the emergency communications system."

- 7) Thank the committee or task force for the opportunity to speak

This can be as simple as a three general section position:

Section #1 - Introduce yourself, where you work, what you do, how long you have been doing 911 work

Section #2 - Explain why you think that this is a good idea and back it up with facts and a personal story. Stories help legislators relate to us as people and not statistics and makes it hit the heart differently. Take care of yourself and be sure it is something that you are comfortable sharing, there is no need to retraumatize yourself with something that you have not completely processed through.

Section #3 - Repeat your position and thank the committee for accepting your testimony

Other helpful hints provided by the Oregon Legislature on how to testify can be found [here](#). Or if you need inspiration on what to say, you can look at the already submitted testimony by clicking on the [Testimony tab](#)

Other useful links - Please disregard the organizations linked as the samples and templates are being borrowed

- [Written Testimony Template](#)
- [Testimony Templates](#)
- [Giving Testimony](#)

This is definitely not that last opportunity you will have to help out. Stand by for more information.

Any questions please reach out.

Thanks
Fred