



February 5, 2024,

Chair Grayber, Vice-chairs Lewis and Tran, and members of the Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

For the record, my name is Shannon Anderson, and I'm a member of AFSCME, working in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. I am writing to share my support for HB 4045 which lowers the age of current P&F OPSRP employees from 60 to 55. This bill also creates a new "Hazardous" category within PERS for employees of the Oregon State Hospital who have direct contact with patients and 911 operators who directly work with or manage emergency or traumatic events in the regular course of work. This bill has various components but I want to shed light on one specific portion which directly impacts the life of my coworkers who are also your state employees.

At the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, I experience emotional strain dealing with AICs and their problems all day, with little downtime. As we continue to remain understaffed, I continue to feel emotionally and physically exhausted. Since working at CCCF for the past 10 years, I've gotten Achilles tendinitis, ruptured a disk in my back from slipping on flour in culinary, and torn my meniscus. My health has diminished physically and emotionally. I feel too exhausted to work out most days. My emotions are much higher when I'm on vacation, knowing that I don't have to deal with all of the daily problems of work. I miss my previous life but can't afford to leave the job! Being able to retire and get a "happier job" would be much better for my health! I'll be 55 in a few months. I don't see many of us living long lives without some serious change!

I strongly urge your support and appreciate your consideration of this bill. HB 4045 to help recruit new people into this field, but it would also retain workers, like me, who feel burnt out.

Thank you for your time,

Shannon Anderson