



February 6, 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 Wesley Silburg, and I'm a member of AFSCME Local 3295, the Oregon State Hospital Nurses. I am writing to share my full support for HB 4045 which 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.

The work we perform at OSH is unique and comes with its challenges. It is hard to consistently provide a therapeutic environment for patients when you have to be worried about management/HR using deceptive tactics and threatening behavior when they choose to pay attention; the rest of the time they play ignorant to everything going on around them.

HB 4045 could help address these issues. By creating this new category for OSH and 911 telecommunicators, we could attract folks into the workforce who engage 24/7 in work that is high-risk and causes high stress.

I strongly urge your support and appreciate your consideration of this bill. Please pass HB 4045.

Thank you for your time,

Wesley Silburg