



# OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters  
AFL-CIO CLC

March 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
Chair Senator Kathleen Taylor  
Vice Chair Senator Daniel Bonham

Madame Chair, Mr Vice Chair and Committee Members,

For the Record I'm Karl Koenig, President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council and we represent the over 3800 career fire fighters, paramedics, wildland and prevention personnel across the state of Oregon.

Today we are here to testify in favor of the -1 amendments to SB 751. As fire service, law enforcement, corrections and EMS professionals we have several core issues this committee has dealt with in a very positive manner and we are hopeful that the -1 amendments make it out of this committee for further consideration. Today that core issue is beginning formally the discussion of Health Care after retirement, prior to Medicare. For our members that is typically 12-15 years of paying for medical insurance before the member is eligible for Medicare. That cost is over \$2000 a month in many cases and with our OPSRP members beginning to retire with 45% of highest years towards retirement earnings, that \$2000 dollars a month is a significant portion of a retiree's pension.

Our ask of the Committee is to approve the formal designation of a Task Force and report back to the Legislature with potential solutions. This task Force would consist of representative from OSPOA, AFSCME, SEIU, AOCE, IAFF, FOPPO and ORCOPS along with PERS and selected Employer representatives such as AOC, LOC, SDAO, OFCA, Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, County administrators and Parole and Probations management position.

This Task Force would have the reporting requirements outlined in ORS 192.245.

Your Public Safety professionals across the entire state urge you to pass SB 751 -1 out of committee.

Regards

*Karl Koenig*

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