



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 18, 2019

Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, Room H-271
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Vote Explanation for HB 2196

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

The firefighters impacted by this issue are not at fault for the discrepancy between practice and statute. A promise was made to them that, in return for their service, we would guarantee them a PERS retirement. This bill would provide clarity and fair compensation for those firefighters who risked their lives to protect us. It will likely have no fiscal impact because the funds already have been, and would continue to be, paid to the recipients as PERS benefits. If we do not solve this problem now, these public servants would be required to return their hard-earned benefits due to no fault of their own. They should not have to pay for the State's mistakes. I am frustrated that this was an issue at all, and I encourage improved transparency and better oversight to prevent this in the future.

Sincerely,

Representative Courtney Neron

