

Mark Meek
State Representative
District 40



House of Representatives

May 30, 2019

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk, Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE, Room H-271
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 1049 A Vote Explanation

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted yes on Senate Bill 1049 A and wish to explain my vote.

This was a difficult decision for me. Oregon's public employees help make our state a great place to live and raise a family. The services they provide to our citizens, however, are becoming harder and more expensive to deliver each year – leading to painful cuts to our schools, public safety and other crucial services. Failure to act now will result in deeper cuts to essential services and public worker benefits in the future.

There are elements of SB 1049 A that I support, such as extending the time to pay off the unfunded liability for Tier 1 and Tier 2 employees from 20 to 22 years. There are also portions of the bill which I strongly oppose, including redirecting employee contributions to the pension account. Ultimately, my decision to support SB 1049 A is about preventing future cuts to public workers and ensuring greater long-term financial stability for our public employers.

Every school district, local government and public employer will see meaningful savings as a result of SB 1049 A, with the Legislative Fiscal Office estimating \$1.2 – 1.8 billion in total savings in 2021-23. In North Clackamas School District, this represents over \$13.5 million which will go back into our classrooms and educational workforce. This is a big deal.

I do not support everything in SB 1049 A, but the savings included in it are significant and will make a meaningful impact in our ability to provide the essential services that Oregonians rely on every single day.

Sincerely,

Mark Meek

State Representative – Oregon House District 40