



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 31, 2019

RE: Vote explanation for Senate Bill 1049

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

This has been a complicated issue and I have not taken my vote responsibility on Senate Bill 1049 lightly. I have researched, met with labor members, business owners, board members and yes, talked to my kids. As a mom to two teachers, this was not an easy decision to come to, but doing nothing was not an option.

We are at a point in our public education system where the tipping point has tipped. Classrooms are bulging, there are increasing numbers of students with emotional, social and differing needs and staff members are feeling the effects of these layers every day. The reality is that many school districts are STILL recovering from the last recession. Since 2008, Hillsboro School District has cut \$71,597,573 from their budget and that includes cuts in next year's budget. Our school districts are not the only ones that have felt their budgets squeezed and pulled. The dedicated public employees who work hard every day to support and strengthen our communities across this state have felt this in their jobs as well.

I voted in favor of Senate Bill 1049 because I believe it will help accomplish two important things:

First, the bill includes system-wide cost savings that will protect critical services and ensure long-term stability in our retirement system. Below are numbers from public employers in my district and the growing impacts of pension costs on their budgets.

Washington County:

(2017) \$13,949,118.59 (2018) \$15,820,392.15 (2019) \$28,200,000.00 (2020) \$41,000,000.00

City of Hillsboro:

(2017) \$10,832,665.00 (2018) \$12,144,165.00 (2019) \$15,472,235.00 (2020) \$15,859,041.00

Beaverton School District:

(2017) \$40,114,027.70 (2018) \$58,437,205.20 (2019) \$51,058,299.00 (2020) \$76,949,120.00

Hillsboro School District:

(2017) \$26,055,461.00 (2018) \$27,663,453.00 (2019) \$34,562,292.00 (2020) \$35,638,046.00

Banks School District:

(2018) \$1,340,703.00 (2019) \$1,585,000.00 (2020) \$1,861,000.00





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The projected numbers for pension costs for 2021-2023 are:

- Hillsboro School District \$88,039,242
- Beaverton School District \$218,093,947
- City of Hillsboro \$20,319,396 (estimated)

The cost containment efforts in SB 1049 turns the tide for these local public employers. For the Hillsboro School District, SB 1049 will save \$7,813,067 and in Beaverton School District, the savings amount will be \$34,103,676. These savings will protect jobs and days on the school calendars.

The second key reason I voted yes on SB 1049 is that I believe it will help head off efforts to make even deeper cuts to employee benefits. Individuals and organizations are making very real threats to put PERS reform on the ballot which could have devastating results.

I believe there will be long-term benefits for our entire state with this legislation, and I remain as committed as ever to ensuring our public employees are compensated in a way that they deserve.

Sincerely,

Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Representative - House District 30

Serving the communities of: Banks, North Plains, Hillsboro, and Beaverton

