



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 30, 2019

Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak:

Please accept this vote explanation on SB 1049.

When I was young, I was drawn to stories of people who sacrificed for others. That led me to join the Army and to serve 25 years in the military. Despite the hardships, it was simple to be a soldier because I just had to love the service and my country. When I became a military leader, it became far more complex. It was no longer about my personal sacrifices and instead about inspiring others to make sacrifices that sometimes exceeded my own out of a shared love of our country. Similarly, the hardest part about being a legislator is not giving of myself to serve the public – it's asking others to bear burdens for the greater good.

When I ask myself why people elected me over my opponents, who are both good people with some great ideas, I come back to that. They asked me to represent them because they trusted me to make a hard choice when it was the right choice. If I could pay down the PERS liability with my own money, I would do so. But I don't get that choice. My choice is between \$1 billion more a year to educate Oregon's kids or 1-5% of the retirement for the people who educate them and keep them safe. Further, if we fail to address the underfunding of PERS this session, public employers will be forced with significant layoffs in every area *other* than PK-12 education. Put simply, moving forward with this bill does change retirement benefits going into the future, but it also keeps the people making this sacrifice in their jobs.

I have advocated for our public employees and will continue to do so to reduce the impact this will have on them. Today, however, I did the job that the people of District 11 asked me to do. I voted for the greater good and to support our schools and our children.

I will work to restore public employees' full benefits. We should repay them when we get through the PERS crisis. I will introduce legislation to do that this session, making this a loan from public employees, not a permanent reduction of their pensions.

We must also continue to raise public employee pay gradually so we won't lose our brightest, most dedicated employees to our neighboring states, which pay better. I hear concerns that this is just the first step and that, having passed this legislation, the state will always look to public employees in the future. To be clear, I will not support any deal to reduce public employee pensions in the future and I will work against the initiative petitions filed to do so.

I will also fight for our kids' safety at home and at school. That means fighting for schools where they won't get shot or get measles or polio. That means fighting to make sure that they aren't accidentally killed or commit suicide with a firearm that an adult should have stored safely. This year, we chose to compromise to stop cheating our children of their future. I will honor that agreement. And next session, I will continue the fight for their safety and for fair compensation for their teachers and the public employees who keep them safe and healthy.

Marty Wilde, State Representative, District 11

