

**JENNIFER A. WILLIAMSON**  
**HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 36



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

May 31, 2019

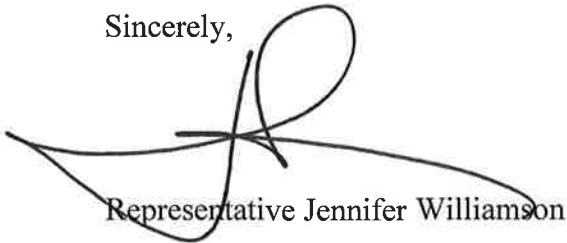
Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I reluctantly voted yes on Senate Bill 1049A because I believe the implications of not acting now on our pension funding shortfall would simply be too damaging to critical services, Oregon's school children and our dedicated public workers.

The Governor and the financial experts advising her informed the Legislature that if nothing is done, costs to cover pension debt obligations will rise, on average, to nearly 33% of payroll. That could lead to cuts to critical services like drug addiction treatment and mental health care and result in layoffs of public employees around the state. Acting now will allow Portland Public Schools to save \$51 million on pension debt that could be reinvested back into our classrooms.

Finally, I believe this bill is necessary to protect the defined pension benefits of thousands of Oregon workers and ensure that their pensions will be there in the future when these hardworking public servants are ready to retire.

Sincerely,



Representative Jennifer Williamson