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House Bill 572: Proponent Testimony
House Aging and Long Term Care Committee
May 23, 2018

Chairman Arndt, Vice Chair Pelanda, Ranking Member Howse and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Davis, I work in Government Relations for the Ohio Education Association. On behalf of the 125,000 members of OEA, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 572. This bill would restore a full year of OPERS service credit to non-teaching staff of County Board of Developmental Disabilities who work during the school year.

The employees who would be helped by House Bill 572 are dedicated public servants who work with some of Ohio's most vulnerable students. They continue to contribute 10% of their salary towards their pension benefits but are no longer receiving a full year of service credit per school year. Reduced service credit has an adverse effect on the retirement planning and economic security of these employees. They deserve equal treatment to the teachers they work alongside and the non-teaching employees of school districts who receive a full year of service credit towards their retirement.

House Bill 572 is narrowly-tailored to address this specific situation. The bill would require OPERS to grant a full year of service credit to employees who meet the following conditions: 1) are employed by a County Board of DD; 2) work in a position that would be covered by the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) if they were employed by a school district; and 3) perform full-time service for at least nine months of the year and paid earnable salary in each month of that year.

I would call your attention to written testimony that has been provided by a number of our members who are directly impacted by this situation. In addition, I would like to thank Representatives Scherer and Howse for jointly sponsoring this legislation. OEA urges support and speedy passage of HB 572.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my testimony. I'd be happy to answer questions from the Committee.



