

Chair Mathews, Vice Chair King, Ranking Member Lightbody, and members of the pensions committee, good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today.

I am here to share with you how this house Bill 94 would personally impact my life.

In 1991 through 2000 I was employed with the City of Warren Operations department under the Ohio Public Retirement System. I was also employed with the City of Newton Falls during the same time frame as a part time Police officer. In 2000 I then was employed with the Trumbull County Sheriff Department under the same pension plan.

In 2002 through 2017 I was employed again with the City of Warren but with the Police Department which was under a different pension, the Ohio Police and Fire Pension.

In 2018 and currently I am employed with the City of Cortland in the service department and once again fall under the PERS plan.

I transferred my PERS in 2002 into Ohio Police and Fire. I had 10 years of service in the PERS at that time and due to the contributing rate differing, only 7.6 years actually transferred.

Over the past few years, I have continuously contacted both pensions. Ohio Police and Fire say I have 23 years and would need an additional 2 years to be fully Vested. I left the Police Department in 2017 as I tried to get a disability through the pension plan and was denied. I mentally and physically was unable to continue in the Police field.

PERS is currently giving me credit for 7 years however I have been told I cannot transfer time and my eligibility for retirement would not be until the year 2040 at the age of 67 which would be 47 years I would have to work in the PERS total, instead of 30 years. To be honest, each time I contact them they are unsure of how to credit me.

I believe this bill would help me as I currently have 31 years if I were able to combine the two pensions and I would be eligible for retirement at this time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason McCollum