

From: [TRACY GROSS](#)
To: [Lisa Diesslin](#)
Subject: H.F. 1234/S.F. 1959
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 2:54:14 PM

I am writing to you regarding the bill that has been introduced into the house and will then be introduced to the senate at a future date. The bill is seeking to create changes to all who receive PERA duty disability benefits.

I was a Minneapolis Police Officer for 17 years in the 3rd PCT. I was born and raised several blocks from that precinct and considered that my home. The evening of May 28, 2020 changed my life forever. I was inside the PCT when it was set on fire and was forced to abandon the building that night. I suffered a career-ending knee injury while fleeing the pct and having to run several blocks to safety. What happened that night, I would not wish that upon anyone to have to go through. Because of the events of that night, along with 17 years of responding to trauma-related 911 calls, I also was diagnosed with severe PTSD. I have had two knee surgeries and several months of therapy to heal my knee. The current state of my physical injury is bone on bone, and I will need a total knee replacement at the age of 50.

I went through years of therapy for my mental health and still do to this day. I am not embarrassed to say I have PTSD and Anxiety. My family went through hell and back with me after the riots. Every day is a healing process for me. It was not a voluntary process to retire from the Minneapolis Police Department. My mental and physical state is what forced me to have to leave the job I loved. The City of Minneapolis accepted the fault and admitted my knee injury was work-related. After completing my work comp case, I actively receive PERA duty disability benefits.

I understand there needs to be some change. But why can't current disabled officers/firefighters be grandfathered for the proposed offsets? The offsets will greatly impact me and my financial stability for my family. PERA already has offsets, and we also submit our annual disability earnings form accounting for any additional income to PERA yearly.

These new proposed changes should not affect those retroactively and instead be moved from this day forward. It is unfair to change our PERA earnings as any deduction as to what I am making now will affect my family.

Respectfully,
Tracy