

Good morning,

For the last three years I have been living a nightmare. I made the life long, life lasting decision to take a medical retirement after being a police officer for 18 years. I made this decision to transition to a duty disability retirement based upon the law at the time. For us to have our lives upside down into because of this new proposed law is abhorrent.

Through the entire retirement process, I meet with multiple psychologists per myself and directed by the City of Minneapolis. Throughout the retirement process I was made to relive some of the worst moments in my career that I don't wish anyone to experience. I was asked to relive these incidents over and over, so that I could "prove" my diagnosis of PTSD.

Since retirement, I have made great strides and changes to better my mental health. I am appalled and am having serious issues since hearing about these proposed changes. None of these new changes to the law should apply to anyone that has taken a duty disability retirement. If you want to make this a law going forward, I understand. However, those currently retired under the current statues should not be affect by these new changes.

I work hard daily to get my mental health to a place that I have been able to be employed, attend school, and return to be functional member in society. Learning of these proposed changes has led me to have panic attacks, loss of concentration, irritability, and inattentiveness that not only is affecting me now but also my family.

The punitive nature of these proposed changes shows us on duty disability retirement that is a punishment for those of us that risked our lives for the communities we protected, and the difficult decision made for myself and my family to no longer serve as a police Sergeant for 18 years.

Now despite having paid my dues, both mentally and monetarily to PERA so that the benefit was there for me when either I reached retirement age, or in case of a time of need, suddenly if the new law passes, I am facing having to relieve all that I have worked hard to move past, along with paying in without getting any more benefits and being punished at a 1 to 1 offset instead the current model.

Along with all this being said, I am also a husband and father to two toddlers that need me to help provide for them. Having to return to the "process of reapplying" and weight of potential denial along with the loss of proposed monetary changes, and loss of medical insurance disincentives my ability to physically, mentally, and financially provide for my family.

My mental health is taking a toll in-light of these proposed changes. I feel frustrated and abaounded by those that I was told have my back and benefit from the oath I stood behind in the face of death, hardship, and destruction.

I have seen and experienced more death, abuse, hate, and destruction, and I want to know when is enough?! No one would ask military personal to relieve the evil they have witness, so why us? Why make us relieve hell. I gave my soul for 18 years to my career and was proud of what I accomplished as police officer and stood behind, the oath sworn to protect and serve. Mentally I

am broken, unable to sleep through the night, irritable, unable to fully enjoy the life I once had. I went along through the retirement process, did what was asked, relieved what I have witness to answer questions asked by medical professional so that I may receive benefits that I have paid into. Now I get to go through this process again and again until someone believes me or they get the denial they want.

Again, I mention, I make strides daily basis on my mental health, go to school, and have a loving and supportive family, but now you all tell me what I have done is NOT enough. Now we need to reapply for our benefits even though we have already been approved. We are trying to rejoin the workforce to continue to improve ourselves to help our communities.

You want to continue to take from our lives and force us to relieve hell. Again, when is enough. How many of us will it take to end up on medications, divorced or worse suicide for you to stop this? Please allow us to move on with lives along with the benefits we were told under state law at the time of our life changing decision.

Thank you for your time and I pray that you will be an ally for us to keep the status quo, at least for those already retired. Please VOTE NO!!!

Yours Truly,  
Shaun Harrington