

**From:** [Tim Schwab](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Diesslin](#)  
**Subject:** HF1234/SF1959  
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Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in regards to HF1234/SF1959,

I was a police officer for nearly 18 years, I was an Investigative Sergeant, SWAT team leader, SWAT instructor, and loved the career I felt I was excelling at. However I was blinded that career I loved and had a passion for was destroying my life, wife, young son, marriage, personal and professional relationships at all costs.

It took a very long time for me to own and face my demons which stemmed from the experiences I had endured from my career.

Once starting therapy and seeking help (which at the time I was embarrassed to do so), I began to understand and discover how much my mental health had deteriorated. I was diagnosed with PTSD summer of 2021.

In November of 2021 I left my dream job which I had dreamed of doing since I was a kid. I was approved for PERA benefits at this time. Its now March of 2023, I continue to attend therapy on a weekly/bi-weekly basis. My wife and nine year old son are also currently attending therapy due to the damage I had done to them because of my career.

My night terrors still continue which causes sleeplessness nights not only for me but my wife as well, uncomfortable and uncontrollable thoughts still plague my day to day without reasonable control. This makes "regular" life hard to obtain and sustain.

February 28th, 2022, I felt I had made enough progress to gain part time employment making 19\$ an hour in a private retail store.

This same day my best friend, SWAT partner, unit member who was also struggling with mental health issues and fighting demons lost the battle and took his own life.

No one enters law enforcement to make a large amount of money. We enter public service for exactly what it is-helping others, making a difference and serving man kind to the best of our abilities.

If I hadn't left law enforcement and walked away from my dream job I wouldn't be here writing this today.

To this day I am thankful my wife stayed with me, had the courage to stand up to me on a daily basis, support me to discontinue what was destroying me and would have end up killing me.

The PERA process seeking reduced disability benefits adds to the stress of facing demons most try to bury deep inside. Any change to the current process I believe will detour others

who need help from even seeking it.

Off setting current benefits for one who has left the job at a reduced rate based on new income will continue to be a thorn in forward progress for those who struggle daily. To the point of deterring them from even taking the step to keep moving forward.

When I learned of this proposed change I thought to myself, why wouldn't they want someone who had dedicated their life to serve others, to try to seek other avenues of outlet and service.

I guess when it comes down to it its the all mighty dollar which is the driving force and not taking care of those who have been committed to take care of their fellow man.

These proposed bills will do nothing but hinder those to take the step to seek help when they need it the most, causing it to be to late for some, like it was for my best friend and partner.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Schwab