

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing you concerning legislation Bill HF1234/SF1959 and asking you to Vote No to the proposed legislation bill, as it strongly affects me and my family.

As a disabled police officer who served for 20 years, I suffer with PTSD daily. I have been involved in many major incidents and calls for service over my 20-year career. I responded to calls that dealt with the death of infants the same age as the infant I had at home at the time, to the deaths of sons, daughters, grandparents, fathers and mothers with an infant draped over her. I have seen people at their worst points in life. I had to put aside any feelings and assist these citizens. These are things that I struggle with daily wondering if I did enough or if I could have prevented the outcome. The thoughts as well as the flashbacks and memories are uncontrollable and I feel very hopeless, detached from my wife, daughters and family. I try to avoid places or the city that I served as a police officer, because it reminds me of these traumatic events. I have constant nightmares as well as anxiety when in the public. These are some of the things I deal with on a daily basis. PTSD's will never go away. Many different things trigger the PTSD responses and reactions for me.

The proposed legislation would not only continue to remind me that I suffer from PTSD daily, but the proposed bill would also discriminate against me for having a diagnosed disability. PTSD is a very scary thing that I deal with daily. My wife as well as my 2 young daughters see and feel the effects of my PTSD daily. I may come off as having a good day and then I snap or have a sudden outburst, my tone will change and I become irritable and/or very distant from them trying to hide what I am dealing with inside. The fact that the bill questions my diagnosis also furthers the PTSD into feeling that the profession and citizens I so loved, protected and poured my heart and soul into is turning its back on me because I have a disability, which furthers those PTSD symptoms. This bill also questions and disciplines me as a human for suffering from PTSD, by threatening to take away my income that makes me whole with the time I put in as a police officer.

This proposed bill would also cause me to relive the traumatic events over and over, which in turn would not allow me to live a normal life. Learning to manage PTSD's is a constant daily process. The traumatic events went untreated for years and I was not given any direction or coping skills as a police officer. The fact that many things trigger the PTSD's daily from loud noises, locations and even sounds and smells. I see a psychologist every month and continue to struggle with learning how to manage and function daily with PTSD's. The effects proposed in the bill would cause a major financial burden on my family and add to the stress and cause more harm to my health and have continued triggering of the PTSD.

I ask that you Vote No for HF1234/SF1959. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or my wife who can provide a better picture of what me and the family deals with daily when living with PTSD's.

The Impact of this bill will have a significant impact on me and my family. The fact that the PERA sent out a info sheet to members on 3/26/23 and it states, nothing is changing, this is wrong and fails to take into account my overtime worked and all the extra time and duties I put in over my 20 years of service and contributions to PERA. This doesn't appear to take into the consideration of my total earnings while

I was employed as a police officer. This doesn't appear to take into the consideration of my total earnings while I was employed as a police officer because the offsets are based on my base pay, which does not include overtime. This has added some major stress to me and my family since I received the letter from MN PERA today and it significantly impacts me and my family. The letter does not explain the full impact, it significantly tries to disguise the exact impact as nothing, when in fact the impact is very substantial to members and any members that become injured in the future. It appears to penalize the injured employee. I am very disappointed that PERA has moved forward to penalize the disabled employee not only in the future but also retroactively when a duty-disabled member reapplies for benefits. Again, this impact is substantial to me and my family. To retroactively reduce my earning capability and add another 11.8% reduction to that of a duty disabled employees pay from reemployment they have had for a significant time will put families with duty-disabled employees in a real hardship.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Travis Serafin and Shari Serafin

I ask that you Vote No for HF1234/SF1959.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or my wife who can provide a better picture of what me and the family deals with daily when living with PTSD's.