

May 5, 2026 – Probation Officers and 911 Telecommunicators Retirement Bill

Representatives, Senators and LCPR Staff,

I am writing in strong support of the Probation Officers and 911 Telecommunicators Reasonable Retirement on the schedule for the Pension Commission meeting today 5/5/202.

My name is Kelly Kalla and I am a 45 year old Career Probation Office in Hennepin County. I have been here for over 18 years. Most of this time I supervised high risk adults as a field Probation Officer. I only recently changed to supervising a lower risk caseload, this after being diagnosed with PTSD following yet another safety incident. I have attached a letter I submitted last year on my personal experiences so I will not go into details again. I now supervise 2 caseloads of lower risk clients. On one caseload I have 230+ clients with cases (from Felony Murder to Misdemeanor DWI) from other Minnesota Counties and from other States. I also supervise a second caseload of 90+ clients who have committed significant Sex Offenses but have completed programming and still need a lower level of monitoring. To say it is busy and stressful is an understatement.

Probation Officers need a reasonable retirement. We understand the proposed plan is not perfect for everyone. I have missed out on some benefits based on my age one way or the other but I understand it is the nature of this work and of life. I want what is best for our group as a whole and for all of our futures, this plan is it. The workgroup came together and agreed upon this subplan after countless hours, conversations and meetings over this past year. All stakeholders of all ages were given the opportunity to provide input prior to and during this process. I am in full support of their recommendations.

Reasonable retirement has been talked about since I was hired in Hennepin County 18 years ago, we need to get this done now. Please honor my work as a Probation Officer and honor the workgroups consensus by passing this legislation.

I urge you to support and pass the bills for the Establishment of the Probation Officers and 911 Telecommunicators Retirement Subplan. The prior bills are listed as having been reformatted to S4276-9A, S4276-10A and S4276-11A.

Thank you for the important work you all do!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Kalla".

Kelly Kalla (legal name Sanders, I work under my maiden name)  
Hennepin County Career Probation Officer