



September 13, 2019

Chair Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon and Vice Chair Sen. Barbara Bailey  
Select Committee on Pension Policy  
P.O. Box 40914  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Representative Fitzgibbon and Senator Bailey:

I'm writing to express the support of the *Washington State Jail Association (WSJA)* for Senator Hans Zeiger's request that the *Select Committee on Pension Policy* consider allowing dual membership correction officers to move *Public Employees Retirement System II (PERS II)* into *Public Safety Employees Retirement System (PSERS)*, and to allow members to collect full retirement benefits without a reduction to the PERS II benefits.

Our organization represents more than 600 correctional officers serving in city and county facilities across the state. These officers are the frontline in the daily management of an increasingly drugged-up and dangerous inmate population with mental health problems. Not surprisingly, more and more officers are reporting health (emotional, mental, physical) impacts.

The dual retirement issue is impacting employment retirement decisions, which effect staffing and operations. With staff turnover and hiring already industry-wide challenges, the state addressing the inequities of this dual retirement hardship would help retain experienced staff and attract employees, benefiting operations and improving public safety across the state.

Respectfully,



Lisa Shanahan, President