

Bianca, Pam

From: Susan Meagher <smghr327@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 4:28 AM
To: LABTestimony
Subject: HB 5860

To the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support on proposed legislation introduced by Representative Bob Godfrey – HB 5860 to recognize probate court employees as state employees.

I work for the Berlin Probate Court. I started working at the court in May of 2006. I received one pay raise in 2007 and then nothing until a merit raise in 2013. That's a long time to wait for a pay raise considering the cost of living has steadily gone up. This lack of compensation was decided by our Probate Court Administrator. According to the probate administrator's recent wage study, probate court employees are significantly underpaid compared to state employees who work in similar jobs, such as state judicial.

Although we are hired by our Judges, the PCA controls the courts and limits our ability to speak up for ourselves, and yet, probate court employees "serve at the pleasure of the judge". I am lucky that my current judge was reelected in November. If he was not or if he chose not to run, I would be worried for my job right now since we lack job security because of that clause.

HB 5860 – An Act Recognizing Probate Court Employees As State Employees would give us public employees the same respect that other similar employees have. It will give us a voice. It will give us the right to form a union. It will give us job security.

This is important legislation. I hope I can count on your support for this bill.

Thank you,

Susan Meagher
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Sent from my iPad