



...PERS lawsuit

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gon Supreme Court in the 2005 *Strunk* ruling and the 2015 *Moro* ruling.

“Their service for public employers creates certain contract rights to retirement benefits. As the Oregon Supreme Court has ruled in the past, the State cannot breach the terms of those contractual promises,” Masih said.

This is the second lawsuit for

Silence, the firefighter from Salem. He regained some retirement benefits that had been taken from him after he served as a plaintiff in the 2015 *Moro v. the State of Oregon*, et al case that was filed after state lawmakers cut PERS benefits the last time. If SB 1049 remains in effect, he will lose \$26,000 in retirement benefits.

“It is deeply disappointing to

be in this position again,” Silence said. “Lawmakers keep coming back for more cuts to benefits from public workers like me who are not the cause of the unfunded liability problem, and I have to again ask the Supreme Court to help protect my contract rights.”

The public retirement system has an unfunded liability of \$27 billion, left over from the 2008 market crash. Changes from SB 1049 would only address a tiny portion of that amount.

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from the **Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO**
Larry Brown, President — April Sims, Secretary Treasurer

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On Behalf of the Staff of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council No. 5...
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