

911 Specialist Supervisor Richard Tanner Jones

[Fruitland Police Department- Emergency Communications]

I am writing in strong support of SB 700 – Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System – Membership – 911 Specialists.

Since joining the Public Safety Sector in 2011 at the age of 18, there has been no other job path considered. This is my calling. This is a job that I love, however with current retirement requirements I will have to work a total of 42 years, 12 years above my 30 years of service. 42 years listening to people die on the phone, officers screaming for help, is a long time.

With the potential to enter LEOPS, I would be able to retire after serving 30 years, and I would be able to retire at a higher percentage. This is an absolute necessity for retention and recruitment for future dispatchers, who would be entering a stressful but worthwhile profession in public safety. This option to allow Emergency Communications Personnel eligible for LEOPS would prevent the Dispatcher Burnout that so many face and would give a higher benefit at the end of a very rewarding career.

Please support SB 700.