

Jana Smith AFSCME Local 3661 Testimony to the Appropriations Committee in Support of SB 803

I am Jana Smith and I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to take you on my personal journey.

I started with the Division of Parole and Probation 03/31/2004 as an Office Secretary II, after two years I advanced to the Department of the Public Defender's office as an Office Secretary III. After four years, I became a Monitor I at the Division of Parole and Probation, which was in 2010. In 2011, I was promoted to a Monitor II, and have been in that position since. That is 12 years later, and 18 years of total service so far, that I have made less than \$50,000 annually for such a critical and important job. That is 11 years stuck in one position with no room for advancement or growth unless you want to give up your caseload and become a supervisor. Which for a lot of us passionate, hands on, interactive, inspiring, and influential Monitors – we would not like to do.

Most people are not aware of what a Monitor is and do not even realize that we are a part of Parole and Probation until their life is affected by a driver under the influence. My job is critical to public safety, yet so undervalued, under paid, under staffed, and overwhelmed. I am responsible for about 212 individuals, that's 212 people who have been caught driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. That is 212 humans that are closely supervised by one person, myself, to ensure that public safety is not compromised and; to ensure that these 212 people are sober productive citizens. The amount of work completed daily is daunting, the tasks are endless, and the numbers grow daily.

Allowing for advancement to the DDMP III position would give a lot of us veterans, (who are needed to teach and lead the beginning monitors) some hope and growth to what seems to be an underappreciated position. Thank you for taking this position into consideration, and thank you for your time.