

Good Afternoon Senators,

My name is Kesha King. I'm a proud member of my AFSCME local 3661. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to stand in solidarity with my brothers and sisters who work for the Division of Parole and Probation's Drinking Driver Monitor Program, more aptly known as DDMP Monitors.

On February 11, I was able to speak candidly with your colleagues Senators during the Public Safety and Transportation Committee Session. Today, my message is still the same.

DDMP Monitors are tasked with engaging in the difficult, but critical work of supervising high caseloads of probationers who are on probation for DUIs and DWIs. Currently, I supervise 180 DUI and DWI cases, recently assigned nine (9) more cases from the 171 cases I stated last week. And the numbers will only continue to increase because Monitor vacancies is and continues to be a critical issue.

Senators, it is my sincerest hope, that you will all agree that, no employee wants to be stuck in a dead-end job.

Agents and every other job classification state-wide receive the benefit of career advancement to a senior level position, except for Monitors. Monitors simply ask for a DDMP 3 position to institute equal pay and equal value in the work Monitors perform.

Monitors do not fall under the classification of support or clerical staff, but within the same framework as Agents. Monitors supervise caseloads, are officers of the court who require state certification to hold the position, work as state representatives alongside the State's Attorney, Judges, and other law enforcement and legal professionals in Court proceedings and believe me Senators, this is a short list of the Monitors workflow process.

Every year, DDMP Monitors diligently and optimistically present to legislators in an effort to paint a vivid picture that the role of the DDMP Monitor II has failed to receive the support it needs to gain momentum for the creation of a DDMP 3 senior level position.

I would put this question to each of the Senators present today, would either committee member be okay, with being placated to a role for 22 years and never afforded the opportunity to advance?

If your answer is no, I ask that you take a moment to think about Bonnie Ball, a 24 year DDMP veteran, who left this agency without her full 30 year retirement feeling defeated and devalued for the lack of career advancement.

We ask, that in good conscious, you each will support the creation of a DDMP 3 Senior level position. Thank you...