

For the record, my name is Katherine Elizabeth Parron and I am asking the committee for a favorable report on HB312. I began my career with the Division of Parole & Probation in 2004 as a field agent. I had a brief disruption of my employment in 2012 for a period of four months and was reinstated that same year as a field agent.

After the murder of Agent Davis Martinez in 2024 during a home-contact, I started the process of my retirement. I attempted to purchase my prior state service time from 2004 through 2012 (Form 26). During the multitude of calls I made to SRPS, I would be given different directives on what the process would look like and what form I needed to complete. I was even given verbal retirement dates of December of 2024 and July of 2025. Going back and forth with the different SRPS representatives was stressful, beyond words. During this time and the influx of changes within the Division I was reassigned from Headquarters to the Field. I had been working on a special project involving Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Initiative, but the Division determined that was no longer a focus, thus I was reassigned as a Field Supervisor.

On December 17, 2024, I received a phone call, as well as a written document from SRPS Deputy Director, Mr. Shane Brown. He stated that they had their legal department look at my request and there were no bylaws for accepting it, since I had a four month break of state service, before I was reinstated. SRPS lead me to believe that I was going to be able to retire after I purchased the eight years back after the submission of the Form 26. Mr. Brown said if I could get Legislation to add a line about the discrepancy in the January hearing I would then be able to purchase the time back. He said if I moved to another state job that was not under CORs, I would have no problem buying the time back.

Mr. Brown went on to say that when the Division of Parole & Probation moved to CORs, there were way too many situations for the bill to cover every loophole. He told me to reach out to my congressperson or union for assistance.

I do not want to lose my service time within the State, and I should have been able to retire in December of 2024. If I am unable to buy back my service time, I will have to work for the Division of Parole & Probation until 2032. Even then, it would not reflect the true about of time of 28 years that I worked, but only 20. At one time I was very proud of my association with the Division, but with the handling of everything these past years, I am not.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Elizabeth Parron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Elizabeth Parron