

Testimony on SB0710 (Correctional Retirement)

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Committee: House Appropriations

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

"Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Nicole McDonald. I'm a mom from Baltimore, and I'm here today because I see right through the 'funny math' being played with our workers' lives.

I am **Favorable with Amendments** on SB0710. I see the sponsors of this bill acting like they are doing the workers a huge favor by 'allowing' them to keep their money. But let's be clear: the state never should have been 'clawing it back' in the first place.

The state is treating these earned pensions like a personal piggy bank they can dip into whenever they feel like it. If a person puts in 20 years in a high-stress, dangerous job like corrections, that money belongs to **them**. It shouldn't matter if they flip burgers or serve as a bailiff—you don't get a 'discount' on a promise you already made.

The calculation is the problem, not the workers. To sit here and say it 'costs the state money' to stop stealing a piece of a retiree's pension is insulting. These officers aren't 'double-dipping'—they are collecting what they earned and then picking up a second job to help our short-staffed courts.

The state needs to budget properly from day one instead of counting on these 'clawbacks' to balance the books on the backs of retirees. You've got a Rainy Day Fund with **\$2.2 billion** sitting in it—y'all don't have a problem managing *that* money. Stop playing games with the people who kept us safe.

I urge a Favorable with Amendments report. Thank you."