matt taylor Casco LD 2121

The staffing shortages that we face have made it necessary for us to work a minimum of eight hours overtime per week for years. The fact is that many of us work 60 plus hours a week. This causes us to miss family gatherings, kid's events and have to reschedule crucial appointments with little to no notice. We are part of the public safety family and I can attest there are many times where I do not feel safe driving a vehicle after working my fourth 16-hour shift in a row because we can't find people to fill our seats. There are people who sleep on their off hours at the station because of this. All of this does not even include the mental toll of having to be hypervigilant for so long and not knowing if the next call that you take is going to send you on a downward spiral that honestly I worry that many of my coworkers much less myself may not recover from. At minimum, any part of this bill if passed that makes it way to benefit the telecommunicators of this state only helps to try and break the cycle of the chronic issue of short staffing that nearly every PSAP in this state faces.