

Caroline St. Pierre  
IAFF Local 740  
LD 2121

Chairman Nangle & Stover and members of Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government. Hello, my name is Caroline St. Pierre and I am writing in support of LD 2121.

I have been a Portland firefighter for 16 years. I am also a trained 911 operator for the city of Portland. I work shifts in the Portland Regional Communication Center on my days off. This center is currently at critically low staffing levels and has been for the past few years. When I work in the center, I see how this takes a toll on our full time dispatchers. They are forced in weekly, working several 16 hr shifts in a row, sometimes with a very short turnaround. They are tired, stressed and struggle to have any normalcy in their personal life. Some of them drive at least an hour home after a very long, busy shift. This is dangerous. Not only am I concerned for the well being of our dispatchers, I am concerned how this affects the responders on the street. When there isn't enough staff in the room, things can get missed and the safety of our firefighters and police officers is at risk.

I am in support of this bill and feel that it could make a big difference for all dispatch centers around the state.

Respectfully,  
Caroline St. Pierre