

To whom it may concern:

My name is Bryan Wagner, and I started as a Police Officer in 2012, but worked at HCMC prior to that, paying into PERA for both jobs. At the time, the career was extremely competitive.

I worked hard, tried to truly make a difference in my community, and I believe that I did! I have received two lifesaving awards, one for talking a suicidal male off of the top of a parking ramp, and one for a rescue of a person who had driven into a pond and sunk. I was able to swim out to her, break a window, and swim her to shore.

In September of 2018 I was in the center median of I494 when a tow truck driver veered off of the road, crashing into the back of my squad car at around 70mph. I don't remember much about the crash, but I was knocked unconscious. I suffered bodily injuries, but most notably, a fractured skull and a dissected carotid artery. I spent several days in the hospital and months at home recovering as I was seeing double, unable to shower by myself, and going to countless doctors' appointments.

Eventually, pushing myself as hard as I could, I was able to get to part time shifts against the advice of almost everyone. I was then made to get a neuropsychological evaluation, which determined that I should not be a police officer, permanently, due to slowed high intensity decision making. I fought this evaluation hard, and hid it from my employer because I wanted to be a cop. I loved it and I was good at it. Eventually, Workers Comp made me get an independent medical evaluation with another neuropsychological evaluation, in which that doctor determined the same thing that I will never be able to improve, ever. I was crushed, and was forced to show this to my employer, who immediately pulled me off of patrol.

I tried to continue to fight this, to the point that I forced the city to terminate me because I wouldn't give up.

Now currently, I work for a bank and do my best to contribute to taxes, my kid's college fund, donate to charity, and work hard, but still struggle with Traumatic Brain Injury symptoms. Creating these offsets will devastate my family financially. I don't live fancy, I don't have new cars, a cabin, a mansion, or anything like that. I have three kids and a wife that I push myself to give a better life. When I was injured, I was nowhere near the top pay of an officer, thus my "high 5" years of earning that my pension is based on, is extremely low. Plus, I am only 34 years old. \$1 for every \$3 over 125% is fair to me honestly!

After my crash, while working part time, I was featured on Kare 11's Land of 10,000 Stories. I ask you to watch the short story. This is who I am, and I am asking for you to reconsider letting this bill pass! It also shows a photo of my squad car after the crash.

<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/land-of-10000-stories/officer-who-cited-woman-for-shoplifting-delivers-food-to-her-home/89-93ac48aa-3cd7-43c1-89c8-0868fefae6d6>

I didn't want any of this, and I fought hard to do whatever I could to not be in this position. Please don't make it worse!

Sincerely,

Bryan Wagner