

Subject: Save our Police Pension, Vote NO on HB 2202!

Dear Representative,

St. Louis is a city in crisis.

For the third year in a row, we lead the nation in homicides per capita. The violence in St. Louis spreads through the rest of our great state like a cancer, resulting in Missouri having the second highest murder rate in the country. Our police department is critically understaffed. As it stands today, we are a record 140 officers below the number of police officers authorized in the city budget.

That makes my job as a police officer difficult and dangerous.

I go into work every day and try to make this deadly city a little safer for the people who live and work here.

I don't get paid much. Officers in surrounding cities make a whole lot more than I do but I'm not complaining. I love this city and I love this state.

But patrolling the deadliest streets in the country takes a toll on you physically. So, all I've ever asked for in return for working for very little money under terrible working conditions, is a decent pension at the end of a long, harrowing career. A pension that I can live on when my body is too broken to do this job any more.

But St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson wants to take that away from me and future cops. And what does she want to do with

the savings? Leave it in the pension system to strengthen the fund? NO! Increase police salaries? NOT A CHANCE!!! She wants to pocket those savings. She wants to spend less money on our pension and do God knows what with the savings.

I am almost certain that whatever she has planned for the money she extracts from our pension system, you'd vote against her scheme if you could. So, why would you vote yes on a bill that hurts my pension and helps to fund her unknown plan?

The truth is, our pension is very stable, it is nearly 80% funded. It is in no danger of insolvency.

House Bill 2202 is a non-solution to a non-problem.

This is a bad bill.

This is an anti-police bill.

I'm imploring you not to allow the Mayor to raid our pension fund for her own sinister devices.

Please, please, vote no on this bill.

If you won't vote no, please at least postpone the committee vote to give our duly elected representatives at the St. Louis Police Officers Association an opportunity to try to negotiate less damaging cuts to our pension plan on behalf of me and my 1,100 fellow members of the Association.

I know every State Representative wants to support the police and deter crime. Now's your chance.

Vote no on HB 2202.

Thank you!