Sorry for the delay on this suggestion for bargaining, I hope it isn’t too late to add it to the list of items for consideration. Unfortunately, a lot of the emails from STAN get mixed with my Junk folder at times, which was the case for this one as well.

I would like to see if we can change how sworn on workman’s comp leave due to injuries sustained in the line of duty have this time away in recovery count against them as it pertains to their credited time served for retirement. I see this as being penalized for being on leave due to a work-related injury that was a result of someone else’s negligence or intent to harm.

As for my situation, I suffered an injury in January of 2019 when an uninsured motorist lost control of his vehicle and collided with mine on Interstate 80. I sustained numerous injuries, worst of which was what the neurologist referred to as a traumatic brain injury. Fortunately, this wasn’t anymore severe than it was, and I have only minor lingering effects. But after the accident, I suffered from migraines and double vision, which took me out of work until late May 2019.

I have learned that because of this accident, it is likely that this will extend the amount of time I must serve before I am eligible to retire. For example, I graduated from the academy on December 22, 2006, at the age of 25 years old. I should be eligible to retire on December 22, 2031, as I will be 50 years old and will have served for 25 years. It is my understanding that I could be required to serve and additional 4-5 months because I was injured because of another’s actions and on workman’s comp.

I think we should attempt to change it so that if an employee is injured during the course of their duties, they should not be penalized the time away while on workman’s comp, so long as they are capable of coming back to work at full capacity. We work a dangerous job, and injuries are just a part of the game, but they shouldn’t be held against you.