From: chase perrins
To: Rep. Laddie Shaw
Subject: A Conservative View of HB22
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 12:01:36 PM

Representative Shaw,

I am writing in support of HB22. I am a 15+ year career Firefighter / Paramedic in Anchorage Alaska, and currently serve in the Jewel Lake neighborhood where I grew up. I am officially undeclared, but Vote 90% republican.

I want to start by saying when this pension bill passes (because it will eventually), I will opt out of it and remain in the 401A plan we are currently offered. I think that's important to know. I don't want this for myself— and in fact I believe anyone who manages their money and wants to build generational wealth is better off with the 401A. BUT— as a taxpayer, I want the pension.

This may be contrary to party-line politics, but quite frankly, it just makes sense when the cost of replacement is so damn high for our first responders.

My first job was serving ice cream for Rich Owens at Tastee Freez — it would be ridiculous for Rich Owens to offer a pension when the cost of replacement is roughly 30 minutes of training for his new employees. But interestingly enough, Rich still offers more to his employees' retirement than the city pitches in for mine. (6.2% social security versus the 5% contribution I get.)

The smartest and most successful companies in the world offer employees stock options, which mature over 4 to 7 years— always offering a new batch of stock options to keep them the next 4 to 7 years.

I recently led our Fire Academy for brand new employees. The person I would consider the top candidate passed the academy with the highest marks, received several national certifications through the academy process, and stayed for about 11 months before accepting a position with a department in the lower 48 who offers a pension.

In the past year, two paramedics with 5-10 years on who I mentored left for departments with pensions—They were both lifelong Alaskans. These are merely the 3 most recent examples of excellent employees who we have lost because we didn't have anything to keep them here.

As a taxpayer— as a conservative— I want my hooks in these employees who cost over 3000 hours of training to replace.

We are going to kill the Conservative Party nation-wide without boldly re-imagining fiscal conservatism. If your business had to invest $200,000 to train an employee, wouldn't you want something that guaranteed a return on your investment? It's not conservative to let that money walk.

Thank you for your service to our great State.

Best regards for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2023.

Chase Perrins
--Thankful for the opportunity to serve my community—

CHASE PERRINS
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