From:	Molle, Dustin T
To:	Rep. Laddie Shaw
Subject:	HB 22
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 11:06:02 AM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png

Representative Shaw,

I would like to provide written testimony in support of HB 22.

I want to start out by thanking you for all your time and support regarding to HB 22.

My Name is Dustin Molle I am 37 years old, married and just had a baby girl a year and a half ago. My wife and I were both born and raised in Alaska. Our friends and family also live here and we all plan on living our lives here and enjoying all the beauty and excitement that Alaska has to offer.

I have worked in the fire service for 8 years, all of which have been with the Anchorage Fire Department. My choice to join the fire service started when I was a child and I've spent my entire life working towards that goal. With many departments to choose from across the country the Anchorage Fire Department has always been my first choice. In my time as a working adult here in Alaska, I have held other jobs, but none as emotionally satisfying as the life of a firefighter. Unfortunately, none have been quite as physically taxing as the life of a firefighter. I hope to illustrate the importance of having a system that supports the members of this fine state at the time of their retirement. The men and women who make the choice to put personal health and longevity aside for the love of the job and their fellow Alaskans. It is a hard truth that many of us will endure some form of long term adverse health effects from performing our duties through the course of our career. As a young man choosing to make this my career path, the idea of long term effects was something I considered, but through the eyes of youth and enthusiasm it seemed like a farfetched consequence. As I consider the future now that I have children, this weighs more on my mind, and is accompanied by a heavier sense of reality. I feel that despite my best efforts to maintain my physical and mental health over the entirety of my service, achieving a career of 20 years will be a great challenge, and with being a participant of the tier IV system retiring at 20 years is just as unlikely as concluding my time in the fire service without a significant illness or injury.

Unfortunately, the Tier IV retirement system has already pushed many Alaskans out of their homes in search of a retirement system that adequately provides for their families. My wife and I hope to not be one of those families, but the reality is that despite our love for Alaska, and all the time and money that the Anchorage Fire Department has already invested in my hiring and training, I have to be realistic, and consider the fact that there is comparable pay with a pension in many other states that will provide better retirement than that afforded to Tier IV members. I have unfortunately watched many coworkers already leave the Anchorage Fire Department to be a firefighter elsewhere due to a more competitive retirement.

Please, I urge you to strongly considerer the benefits of HB 22. If not for our families, then considerer the tremendous financial burden that the state of Alaska will continue to endure as men and women use Alaska to get the expensive training required for their careers just to later relocate into a pension system elsewhere.

Thank you for reading this email and considering the future of Alaska.

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