From: Shayla Swenson
To: Rep. Laddie Shaw
Subject: HB22
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:01:34 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of House Bill 22. This topic directly effects my self and my family. Every year the state loses qualified individuals to pensions outside of this state. In my 12 years as a firefighter with the Anchorage Fire Department I have watched numerous people leave the best paying department in the state of Alaska, for a pension in a state that they only ever visited.

Everyday these people put themselves in harms way whether its traffic stops, violence calls, gun violence, fires, traumas or cancer and when they retire they will have to pay for their own health care, most likely health problems secondary to years of the job, and hopefully the stock market hasn't taken their life savings.

From day one on the department I was told to open as many retirements related accounts as possible and save as much as I can. I did that and I still wonder if I will be comfortable when I retire. How are people supposed to own houses and have a family when 50% of take home is going into separate accounts for the one day that they can maybe afford to retire? Tier V is not a long term feasible model for longevity for employs or for the state. I have seen more people in their first 5 years pack up and leave for a better retirement and less pay then I want to admit. Every time we lose a fully trained employee the state loses money. The cost of training a new public safety member in the state is approximately 190,000 which historically was spread over an 25 year career. That money walks when employees leave 2, 3, 5 or even 10 years into a career for greener pastures.

I encourage you to support House Bill 22 which offers a practical solution to the growing retention problem that is Tier V. Give our Alaskans a reason to stay and work for this great state.

Shayla Swenson