

Dear Legislator:

3/23/12

I, Edwin N. Carlson, am writing you in reference to SB 211 Military Medical Buyback. I have previously served my country in the military for 6 years and I am proudly serving the people of Alaska now as an Alaska State Trooper. This bill would provide a retirement option for current Alaska law enforcement and firefighter employees, who are military veterans and in Alaska's Tier II and Tier III PERS.

It seems that this issue boils down to two things:

1. Fairness to the employees who were authorized by the state to purchase military time to be added to their total time of service and are not receiving medical benefits associated with that time. The costs were figured and the employee was charged as if the employee worked those years.
2. The issue of taking care of our Veterans. This is an important issue right now and on the surface it doesn't appear that the state is willing to take care of veterans who have served their country AND the state of Alaska. These veterans paid for time to be added to their retirement through a program authorized by the state but are not receiving the same benefits as a person who worked the same amount of time.

Please consider these points.

Thank you for your service and time.

Respectfully,

Edwin N. Carlson
Ketchikan, AK