

Personal Testimony regarding HB-194

February 5, 2018

To: Representative Tuck, Representative LeDoux, and committee members

I am a retired Commissioned Officer of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and a veteran. During my professional career, I first served six years in the United States Army and then eighteen years in the USPHS. I first came to Alaska in January 1986, when I was transferred to Anchorage to work as a Project Engineer in the Alaska Native Health Service Sanitation Facilities Program. In that same capacity, I also served with the State of Alaska Village Safe Water Program. I was transferred to Washington, DC in 1993 for my last USPHS assignment where I was able to advocate for Alaska as part of my duties as the Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service National Sanitation Facility Construction Program.

When I retired from the USPHS in 1998, I returned to Alaska. Alaska is now my home. My experience working as a USPHS project engineer bringing safe drinking water to rural Alaska is what brought me back. Today I am the Director of Environmental Health and Engineering for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. In that capacity I continue to work with many other active and retired USPHS officers delivering key health promotion services in rural communities throughout Alaska.

HB-194 will make Alaska's statutes consistent with the federal designation of a uniformed officer. Alaska benefits when a commissioned officer makes Alaska their home and remain in the state after retirement. Encouraging commissioned officers to stay is the right decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven M. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" being the most prominent part.

Steven M. Weaver, PE

Captain, USPHS (retired)