

From: [Jay Bird](#)
To: [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Kelly Merrick](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Ben Carpenter](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#)
Subject: HB79
Date: Sunday, May 5, 2019 4:59:44 PM

I am writing you all today to urge your support for House Bill 79 aimed at a solution for Alaska's Tier 4 retirement deficiencies.

I am a fortunate Tier 3 public employee who has had the pleasure of assisting the Anchorage Fire Department with recruiting, testing, and training of our new Firefighters over the course of the last 16 years. I have seen a marked increase in difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified candidates for this important entry level position. I truly believe the largest contributor to this trend is our current inferior and ill conceived public employee retirement system. I understand there is cost involved fixing this broken system but it is also very costly to have good candidates pass up job offers or worse yet receive thousands of dollars of selection and training only to leave Alaska for a better retirement.

I appreciate all of the hard work you all do on our behalf and hope you will support moving HB79 forward throughout the coming months.

Sincerely,

Jay Bird
jaybird@gci.net
907-250-9308