

**From:** [Chris Kiewik](#)  
**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:** House Bill 79 Public Employee Retirement  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 4:51:58 PM

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House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Chris Kiewik and I am a life-long Alaska resident. I was born and raised in Anchorage and currently reside there with my own family. I have been a fire-fighter for 18 years with the Anchorage Fire Department.

I am writing today to express to you my support for House Bill 79 and to urge this committee to take action on this bill to move it forward. This bill must move forward in the legislative process so that the men and women that protect the lives of all Alaskans can be assured a reasonable and fair retirement. The Tier IV "retirement" system is not sustainable for the state of Alaska. In the short term it may have minor cost savings. But those "savings" are costing us exponentially more with every employee we lose because there is no future in a career in public safety here. Since the implementation of Tier IV I have personally watched more employees leave AFD every single year for other departments that offer defined benefit retirement systems. My own younger brother is also a member of AFD but unfortunately (unlike me) he is currently stuck in Tier IV. This has made his life difficult in myriad ways, not the least of which is reticence to begin a family of his own since he is constantly considering other out of state opportunities.

I acknowledge that there is a cost associated to HB79. But I truly do believe it is not hyperbolic to say that the cost of not fixing Tier IV is vastly greater. You will continue to see dedicated professional public safety employees leave the state, just so they can retire with dignity.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Respectfully ,

Chris Kiewik  
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