

**From:** Dalton Gregg <dalton.gregg32@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 11:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of House Bill 79

Dear Representative Kopp,

I'd like to begin by saying thank you for your work so far with HB 79.

My name is Dalton Gregg. I am a firefighter with the Fairbanks Fire Department and I am one of many Tier IV members who are gravely concerned with the current retirement system in Alaska.

From as far back as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a firefighter. My father has been working for the Anchorage Fire Department for over 20 years now and my brother was lucky enough to be able to join him just over 6 years ago. It is my dream and desire to be able to work with my father and my brother one day, but the Tier IV retirement system is stopping me from committing to that dream. I know that I will be unable to support myself and my family when I retire, even with the other retirement accounts I am contributing to on my own. That is why HB 79 is so important to me.

Time and time again I have watched people join the Fairbanks Fire Department and other departments I have worked for, stay for a year or less and receive training, and take a job in the lower 48s with a defined benefits retirement plan or some other system that will support them and their families in retirement.

I know 20 years ago, it wasn't uncommon for fire departments in Alaska to receive thousands of applications in a testing process. Now, we are lucky if we receive enough applicants to even HOLD a testing process.

The bottom line is Tier IV is bad for the state, bad for departments, and bad for the citizens. It causes an increased cost to constantly train new members and it leaves the citizens vulnerable due to lack of experience.

Tier IV requires a solution and HB 79 is that solution.

Sincerely,  
Dalton R Gregg  
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