

From: [Jones, Dalton J.](#)
To: [Rep. Sara Rasmussen](#)
Cc: [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#); [Ken Truitt](#)
Subject: Alaska Public Employee Retirement System House Bill 79
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:52:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

April 16, 2019

Representative Sara Rasmussen
State Capitol Room 430
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Sara Rasmussen,

As a police officer at the Anchorage Police Department, I am writing this letter in strong support of the passage of House Bill 79. The passage of this bill would allow for me to better plan the future for myself and my family, allow me to support my family once my career has completed, will keep me grounded in Alaska, and it will help with bringing more friendly faces to the department. The passage of this House Bill would be a significant stepping stone in allowing the sworn employees at the Anchorage Police Department to have a long lasting career here in Alaska.

Having the defined benefits in House Bill 79 would allow me to fulfill a career with the Anchorage Police Department where I can retire and still provide for myself and my family. The benefits from this program will better serve my family by allowing me to offer them better benefits after I have completed my career. This career causes a lot of stress at home and it can be hard to separate work life from home life. My family has made sacrifices for me to be able to pursue this career and the ability for me to be able to give back to them after I retire is crucial.

The defined benefits from House Bill 79 would make a career with the Anchorage Police Department more comparable to those other departments that already have these benefits. I was born and raised in Alaska, and the chance for me to be able to continue serving my community here is important to me. With that being said, the benefits from the House Bill 79 would keep me focused on this community and not looking to other departments just for the chance to have a better retirement. I think the ability to have Alaskans serving fellow Alaskans speaks volumes in this career.

I have been a sworn police officer with the Anchorage Police Department since November 30, 2017 and I cannot count the number of times I have heard someone talking about how the current retirement for employees who qualify for PERS Tier IV is lackluster to say the least. I have been approached multiple times and asked if I was going to start looking for work elsewhere once I got the certification as being a sworn officer, just for a better retirement plan alone. I want to stay grounded in Alaska and continue to serve this community, even though I know there are other departments out there that can offer me a better retirement plan. The passage of House Bill 79 would bring us up to speed with some of those other departments that we are seeing our sworn officers moving to for the benefits alone.

I thank you for your support for our first responders and I hope we can work together to strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton Jones", with the number "63534" written below it.

Officer Dalton Jones 63534
Anchorage Police Department

Thanks,
Ofc D. Jones

63534

(907) 729-7877