

**From:** josh foster <benjifoster6@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 9:19 AM  
**To:** Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 79

My name is Josh Foster and I am a second-generation Alaskan. I graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in Fire Science. I am a firefighter/EMT III with the Anchorage Fire Department and am currently working at Station 12. I have been a firefighter within the State of Alaska for eleven years and during that time I have had the opportunity to acquire many technical certifications and participated in many hours of training. I have also had the opportunity to work very closely with the Anchorage Firefighters Union and the Alaska State Firefighters Association on issues that I feel are very important to our profession.

One of the current issues I am most concerned about is regarding our Tier IV retirement system. Overall, my concern is not having enough security, if any, in the system as it is written. In part, there is no opportunity to participate in a Supplemental Benefit System or Social Security which leaves the employee completely in control of a future retirement plan with very little contribution or benefits from the employer he serves.

Currently addressed in the Legislative Session is House Bill 79 which was written and agreed upon by the Alaska Professional Firefighters. This plan allows the state to remain fiscally responsible while addressing some of my concerns as a career public safety employee. I believe if you review HB 79 that you will find this is an amicable solution to both the concerns of the State of Alaska and its employees.

It is not my intent to leave the state, but to give back to the community the education and training I have received through the State of Alaska and with the Anchorage Fire Department through my years of dedicated public service. I feel confident that HB 79 will give me a more secure future in which to continue to live and work in Alaska.

I sincerely thank you for your time in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Josh Foster,

Firefighter