

From: [Hanson, Brian J](#)
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
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:52:22 AM

Hello All,

My name is Brian Hanson, I am a Firefighter/Paramedic and a lifelong Alaskan. I am writing to you in support of House Bill 79. I am urging you to continue to positive progress for this bill, and for you to take action to move it through in the legislative process. I am a Tier 4 member in the Anchorage Fire Department and I am concerned that I may have to work significantly longer than my predecessors to have an adequate enough retirement to leave. With the rise in cancer statistics for Firefighters and the certainty that I will have significant medical expenses, not having a defined benefit will only prolong the exposure I have to the carcinogens, stress, sleep deprivation, among other issues that cause the cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and psychological problems that affect us.

The other concern to me is the lack of retention we have at our department. So far in my 5 years at the Anchorage Fire Department we have had nearly 5 people leave to other departments that have a defined benefit package and we have well over 10x that are actively looking for Departments down in the states that have a better retirement package. I know that the troopers are having the same issue in a much worse capacity. Though I love Alaska and I want to raise my family here forever, I am actively applying to West Metro Fire in Colorado since they have a defined benefit.

I understand that the initial cost to transfer to the Tier 5 system isn't cheap, but the constant leak of a Firefighters and law enforcement is even more expensive. The only way to be able to keep them home where they want to live and work in the best state in the US is to give them a defined benefit package so they have a stable future after retiring.

Thank you for your time,
Brian Hanson
Firefighter/Paramedic
Anchorage Fire Department