

From: Tony Marchini <tmarchini907@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:04 AM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>

Subject: House Bill 79

Dear Representatives,

I am writing this email in regards to House Bill 79. My name is Tony Marchini and I currently am employed by the Anchorage Fire department. I was hired 8 years ago and am a member of Tier IV retirement. To say that this is my dream job is a understatement I have always wanted to be a firefighter and have 22 years now in the fire service. Tier IV is a broken system and needs to be fixed. I am heavily involved in the recruitment and training of new Firefighters. Since I tested in 2011 when we filled the Egan center for testing with many applicants flying up from outside, I believe there was over 1500 person that took the written exam. This year we had less than 300 take the exam. **I believe that it is a direct correlation to Tier IV.** We are now seeing life long Alaskans that are leaving the state with their knowledge and many years of experience to go somewhere that has a actual retirement system. These other departments are actively recruiting us, as they should. They get a fully trained and experienced fire fighter and don't incur the cost of training them from the start. Many places are offering straight laterals that include some seniority. I am a life long Alaskan and never thought that I would change professions or seek employment anywhere other than AFD. I am now actively perusing other avenues for employment that have a more secure future and will provide for me and my family when I reach retirement age. Thank you for reading this email and I urge you to please take a good look at HB 79 and at least get it to the floor for a vote. If we can get all the information out there I believe we can turn this system around and make Alaska better with Public Safety and better for all of us that live in this great state. Thanks again.

Tony Marchini
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