

From: [Charles Potter](#)
To: [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#)
Cc: [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Kelly Merrick](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Ben Carpenter](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#)
Subject: HB 79 support
Date: Saturday, May 4, 2019 12:42:51 PM

May 4, 2019

Representative Cathy Tilton
Alaska Representative District 12
State Capitol Room 415
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Cathy Tilton,

My name is Charles Potter and I am a life long Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage. In 2011, I joined the Anchorage Fire Department to support our community as a firefighter. As a current Tier IV member, I'm writing you today in support of House Bill (HB) 79 and why I feel that it's important to take action on this issue and continue moving it through the legislative process.

Nearly half of our State's public safety employees fall under the current Tier IV retirement system. This system does not provide an adequate or competitive retirement for our State's firefighters, police officers and Troopers which has resulted in lowered recruitment, lowered retention of trained and experienced employees, and subsequently, challenges with adequate staffing throughout all of our public safety sectors.

The current retirement system and subsequent low retention is also financially burdensome. The cost of training a new public safety employee is approximately \$190,000, spread out over that individual's 25 year career. Current trends show that newer Tier IV employees are leaving the state after an average of 5 years of service in search of a more competitive retirement system. With each loss, Alaska loses its trained employees to other states and must start over with a new recruitment.

This cyclical epidemic that has begun to plague the public safety sector will only continue if something isn't done to address the need for a change to a defined benefit system. HB 79 is a practical solution to this growing problem and I encourage your support on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to review this letter and for your hard work in Juneau.

Sincerely,

Charles Potter

Constituent District 12

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Sent from my iPad