

From: [Kollin Wallace](#)
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: HB 79 Letter of Support
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:11:39 PM

Respected Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support for HB 79 not just as a sworn member of the Anchorage Police Department, but also as a born and raised Alaskan. I grew up with a strong desire to have a career and raise a family in this beautiful state; however, I have reach a state of growing anxiousness, along with many of my colleagues, as to the viability of continuing to work in a state that does not provide a competitive retirement plan for its public service employees. Agencies throughout the United States are looking more and more desirable as they provide a competitive salary and most importantly a defined benefit plan for its dedicated employees.

Every year the Anchorage Police Department, along with departments around the state, are losing a motivated and highly trained workforce due to the lack of a competitive retirement system. From personal observation, the current culture existing within many Alaskan public service agencies is to move somewhere out of state that offers a defined benefit retirement after you've obtained your training and credentials. In speaking with these employees, many are not moving out of desire to leave the state, but out of desperation to ensure a secure future for themselves and their family. The result of not offering a competitive retirement comes at great expense to state and local resources as agencies are left to foot the bill to train new employees that ultimately leave for out of state agencies.

As it stands PERS TIER IV is failing to maintain the standard of competitive benefits offered within the public service field and needs to be address with HB 79. I urge the House Finance Committee to take action on this bill and continue to move it through the legislative process as the reintroduction of a defined benefit plan will not only increase employee retention, but improve the ability for agencies to recruit qualified applicants and ultimately provide a more stable future for thousands of residents working within Alaska.

Respectfully,
Kollin Wallace