

**From:** Robert Whitney <robertwhitney99@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:46 PM

**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:** Thank you for Supporting House Bill 79

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing today in regards to HB 79 and supporting Alaska's Tier 4 employees with a sustainable retirement. I am a 11 year professional firefighter with the city of Anchorage, and was hired under the Tier 4 system.

Peace officers, firefighters and corrections officers deserve a decent retirement. House Bill 79 is about supporting Alaska's future. As a state, we are loosing Tier 4 employees too fast because they are looking elsewhere for a retirement for their families. For example, the Anchorage Police Department is losing employees faster than they can hire, and the current crime situation in Anchorage is indicative of this because standard officer patrol staffing is so incredibly minimal. As a firefighter, I am constantly worried about my retirement with two kids under the age of two years.

As a firefighter, I go to work not knowing if I will return home the following day. We have fires and many medical calls that are downright scary (i.e. homicides, shootings, crimes, etc.) Myself, and other coworkers, are considering leaving our jobs to work at other departments in other states because they offer a defined benefit retirement.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. Thank you for being open-minded and considering pushing forward House Bill 79. There is a cost to this bill, like anything, but the cost of doing nothing will be much greater. Is neglecting Alaska's future worth it?

Sincerely,

Robert Whitney

Professional Firefighter, Anchorage Fire Dept.