

Subject: House Bill Number 55

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:14:03 PM Alaska Daylight Time

From: marvin weinrick

To: Sen. Mia Costello

Hello,

My name is Marvin Weinrick, and I live within your district. I am emailing regarding House Bill 55, which is currently in the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee. As a first responder and a constituent within District K, I ask for your support in passing HB 55. Thank you for your time and service.

V/r,

Marvin Weinrick

Subject: HB 55

Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 11:05:20 PM Alaska Daylight Time

From: Cal Lauwers

To: Sen. Mia Costello

Hello Senator Costello,

My name is Calvin Lauwers and i am a constituent of yours. I have lived in the Sand Lake area since 1967. My family grew up near Sand Lake and myself and all my Siblings attended Sand Lake, Mears, and AJ Dimond High Schools . My parents and siblings still live in the area where we grew up.

I am writing to ask for your support for HB55. I feel like this Bill is very important for the future of public safety in our city. I have been a member of the Anchorage Fire Department for the last 29 years. I feel very fortunate to have had a wonderful career with AFD and am hopefully going to retire this summer. I am in the Police and Fire Retirement system Plan 3., so am one of the Firefighters blessed with a pension.

The Department has changed drastically over the years. The run volume has gone way up and we run lots more medical calls. It is sad to see many of our talented new hires looking to leave the department and move to other departments that have a defined benefit after getting trained at the AFD. The main reason I hear people leaving this great department is the lack of a pension. It's difficult to watch many talented bright new hires looking to move to other departments outside of Alaska.

Senator Costello, thank you for serving our community and our great state in so many ways over the years. We appreciate you! Again I would urge you to support HB55 for the ongoing safety of our city.

Sincerely, Calvin Lauwers

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: HB 55 and Third Service EMS

Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 12:43:09 PM Alaska Daylight Time

From: Dustin Sprenger

To: Sen. Mia Costello

Senator Mia Costello,

I am writing to you as a constituent and a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic regarding House Bill 55, relating to the participation of peace officers and firefighters eligibility within the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska. I am writing to urge your support of medics within third-service EMS agencies to qualify for participation in this program.

Currently, the proposed bill will provide retirement benefits only to firefighters and peace officers, excluding third service EMS agencies statewide, such as my own. My department is composed of hard-working, caring individuals, and our job is highly similar to that of other fire-based agencies. Instead of focusing on fire we respond to medical emergencies. We are the healthcare professionals that show up with an ambulance when people are at their worst.

In the growing rural communities of Alaska the demand for healthcare will also increase. These communities will have to implement emergency services. Third service EMS is more cost effective than fire based EMS and will likely be the route these communities take. Having a retirement plan would be a tool for recruitment. EMS has a very high burn out rate of 3-5 years. Having a retirement plan would be an incentive that would help with retention.

I work for the Matanuska Susitna Borough Department of Emergency Medical Services. My department has approximately 70 full time staff that will not be covered under this bill as it is currently written. My department has a high turnover rate and many of my co-workers are looking for their next step or a career that they can" retire from."

Under the current system, there are no defined benefits after retirement, leading to professionals leaving Alaska after training. In addition, the proposed bill would assist responders to retire at an appropriate age based on the demanding physical requirements of the job.

I urge you to support the hard-working EMTs and Paramedics in third-service EMS agencies, which benefits the agency's retention and allows adequate staffing to reach the most rural Mat-Su Borough community. If you or your staff would like to hear from others within my department, please contact me directly. I look forward to keeping you informed about our progress and working with your office in the future.

Sincerely,

Dustin C. Sprenger
MICP
MSB Dept. of EMS

Subject: Please support HB55

Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 1:30:39 PM Alaska Daylight Time

From: Mark Bundy

To: Sen. Mia Costello

Senator Costello,

I am writing as one of your constituents in the Sand Lake area, to urge you to support and move HB55 past the Labor and Commerce Committee.

This bill is very important to public safety because it helps Anchorage retain the quality employees we invest in after hiring and training them. HB55 is critical to keeping our public safety departments at the high level that we enjoy and expect!

Again, please support HB55 and move it to Senate Finance.

Thank you for your time Senator,
Mark Bundy

Subject: HB 55

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 9:42:15 AM Alaska Daylight Time

From: kristine2735@yahoo.com

To: Sen. Mia Costello

Hello Senator Costello,

I live in your District, with zip code 99502. I'm reaching out to voice my support for HB 55 and ask you to please help move this bill out of your committee with a "pass" recommendation. It would be amazing if this bill could move to the Senate Finance Committee, with hope it will make it's way to the Senate floor for a vote, and then arrive at the Governor's desk. I've worked for AFD for 8 years and am a tier 4 employee. It's unfortunate that if I stay for 30 years, I will only have half the amount needed for retirement. I currently put away more money to make up the difference on my own, which makes my paychecks smaller, while always keeping my eyes open for a new job with better retirement benefits. It costs a lot to hire employees and unfortunately our tier 4 retirement isn't competitive enough to keep employees. I have seen so many people leave each year to departments with better retirement plans. Keeping employees with a better retirement plan than tier 4, would be the ultimate goal.

Thanks for listening,

Kristine Whitford

AFD Dispatcher



Subject: House Bill 55 IS A LEMON

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:19:10 AM Alaska Daylight Time

From: scoutdog@ptialaska.net

To: swill38776@aol.com

CC: acct@wingsairways.com, peggyannmconnochie@gmail.com, Sen. Mia Costello, Rep. Laddie Shaw, andistoryforhouse@gmail.com, Rep. Sara Hannan, Sen. Jesse Kiehl

I posted on R Etheridge Face book today,

House Bill 55 should include ALL, NOT a select few, group or type of workers, What about teachers and other government workers in the State of Alaska. Why do you think or feel like your the only groups of workers losing professional, skilled, and trained employees in the work environment? So maybe the politicians should stop steeling the PFD and contribute and support a better retirement system for all government workers within the State of Alaska.....That I would support! Not Not House Bill 55.....shame on you and your groups. Shame shame shame on the Alaska career political politicians supporting this. (just trying to get re-elected), I get it, I totally get it, however this is not the way to correct the issue or problem. Stop thinking micro and start thinking macro. However some sun light has been shed on a huge problem within the government and employees in all of Alaska, and I give credit to you for that. Shame on the unprofessional politicians for using this to get votes and stealing our PFD. Born raised in Alaska 1964, 2.5 College degrees at UAS and this HOUSE BILL 55 IS A TOTAL LEMON !!!!

Subject: HB 55

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 10:18:32 AM Alaska Daylight Time

From: Joseph Casey

To: Sen. Mia Costello

Good morning Senator Costello,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying spring! I am writing in support of HB55! I know of a multitude of first responders that have left our state for states with a pension. I think that this is a real detriment to our state and needs to be fixed. HB 55 does this in a cost affective way for the State. Please move this bill on for a full Senate vote!

Thank you for your time

Joey Casey