
From: Mark Worcester [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 7:23 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: Prosecutor pay

I was a prosecuting attorney in King County (Seattle) in 1978-1980 before moving to Alaska. Although it was a hard and rewarding job, the pay and benefits were poor. I moved to work for a highly regarded national law firm, at a significant pay increase. I left two years later to join the Alaska Attorney General's Office, again at a significant pay increase. Those days are over. I finished my career as an in-house corporate counsel - again at a significant pay increase. I have watched as public sector attorney salary and benefits in Alaska have continuously eroded in comparison to the private sector (and, oddly, judicial pay and benefits, which remain robust and attractive to candidates) while demands have increased. This is not just a prosecutor pay problem - it is a problem for professionals across the board. For instance, my daughters are highly educated and effective teachers, and their pay and benefits have also become less attractive and competitive over the years. The State needs to pay to keep valuable professionals working essential, challenging jobs. Throwing \$1.5 billion at everyone simply for living here, when there are vital services to maintain is more than an embarrassment - it is shameful and destructive to long term society.

Mark Worcester
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Gail Heineman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:08 AM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: Prosecutor shortage - I support HB 226

We need to pay our prosecuting attorneys a competitive wage.

Gov. Dunleavy reportedly is pushing bills to make it easier to prosecute sex offenders and violent offenders, which I applaud. But if we don't have the staff to prosecute them, it's a meaningless gesture.

Our State compensation system is broken. The critical shortage of prosecuting attorneys reflects this.

Short of a complete solution, the critical shortage of prosecuting attorneys must be addressed. We must be able to prosecute serious offenders, including sex offenders.

On the larger problem, ideally the State would resume either providing a defined benefit pension, or contribute to Social Security.

We need to attract competent workers who will stay. When McDonald's offers better long-term prospects to workers than the State of Alaska, we are but a training ground for short-term workers. This is very bad for the State. It is a waste of money, talent, and makes for a brain drain.

Sincerely,

Gail Heineman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK
[REDACTED]