

Dear Legislator:

3/22/12

I, James W. Sears, Jr., am writing you in reference to SB 211 Military Medical Buyback. I have served my country in the military and proudly serve the people of Alaska now as an Alaska State Trooper. This bill would provide a retirement option for approximately 180 current Alaska law enforcement employers, who are military veterans and in Alaska's Tier II and Tier III PERS.

I believe this option would actually save the State of Alaska money in the long run. The bill would allow law enforcement employees to retire between their twentieth and twenty-fifth years with full medical coverage depending on how many military service years they are eligible to buy and would only fill the gap until the magical age of 60. Because these law enforcement employees are in the later years of their careers, they are some of the highest paid law enforcement employees in Alaska, and because of their age and duties are often the most injured in the line of work. Law Enforcement is a young man's game and is more dangerous and expensive at the end of career.

As written, I will take advantage of this benefit. This bill is a great way to show support for our veterans, increase morale, possibly help with recruitment and most of all save the State money.

Thank you for your service and time.

Sincerely,

James W. Sears, Jr.
Public Safety Employees Association
Western Vice President
Nome, AK