

## Alexander Schroeder

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**From:** Bryan Vincent <bvincent.ak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 10:52 AM  
**To:** Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Andy Josephson  
**Cc:** Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Mike Shower  
**Subject:** HB 22

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Good morning,

My name is Bryan Vincent and I live in Valdez. I am a career firefighter here in Valdez and am very active with the Alaska State Firefighters Association serving on the board of my local chapter and as an officer on the state board. I am writing today to voice my support and concerns for the future of HB 22. I have been tracking the various versions of the police and fire defined benefit bills that have been introduced for the last few years. Most recently HB 55 during the last session. I watched it progress through committees and have listened to hours of testimony from fire service and law enforcement administrations. The State Troopers gave some of the most succinct testimony, when they gave the financial numbers it takes to recruit, hire and fully train a Trooper to be on the street (roughly \$170,000 per Trooper), just to lose them to law enforcement agencies in the lower 48 simply because they offer a defined benefit.

In the fire service, I have seen this countless times. I have several friends that have left their home state of Alaska, where they had hoped to work their entire career serving their communities. They move to places like Washington when they can hire in as a lateral hire and get a 20 year defined benefit. This is a huge loss to Alaska, both financially and culturally. To lose highly qualified and motivated Alaskans just hurts us in the long run. Working a career as a first responder takes its toll on the individual both physically and mentally. There are many organizations that have published research on this. It is for this reason that police and fire in the United States have maintained 20 year and out retirements with a defined benefit, so that after a first responder retires they will be able to have a safe retirement that they can rely on. It is not a job just like everything else and cannot be compared to anything else but other first responders.

I am following HB 22 this session and see the committees that it is referred to, and it is my fear that it will continue to languish in these committees and not progress through the House. I urge you to please do everything you can to help this bill succeed. I am writing not just for my future, but for the future generations of Alaskan first responders.

Thank you for your time. I would be more than happy to talk to you about this in greater detail.

Kind regards,

Bryan Vincent  
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