

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Justin Doll
Chief

The Honorable Pete Kelly
Senate President
Alaska State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 26, 2018

RE: Senate Bill 212

Dear Senator Kelly,

As Chief of Alaska's largest law enforcement agency, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 212. Over the past two years the Anchorage Police Department (APD) has been fortunate to run consecutive police academies to rebuild the force after years of understaffing. During this process we faced an uphill battle to retain our extremely qualified officers as well as recruit new applicants due to Alaska's defined-contribution retirement system.

As applicants evaluate departments across the country, Alaska cannot compete with almost all other agencies offering defined-benefit plans. This has left us with vacancies in multiple academies as applicants decide to pursue their careers elsewhere.

Aside from difficulties in recruiting new officers, we are seeing our highly trained, qualified, and experienced officers leave APD to work out of state for other law enforcement agencies offering competitive defined-benefit retirement systems. We are paying the cost of training these officers just to see them walk out the door after a few years of valuable experience is gained.

Senate Bill 212 is a step in the right direction to help recruit and retain law enforcement officers. Anchorage residents, as well as residents across Alaska, are concerned about public safety. One way to help Alaska residents is to ensure they have adequately staffed law enforcement agencies with experienced, well trained officers. The Anchorage Police Department strongly supports passage of this bill and a return to a defined-benefit retirement system for Alaska's public safety employees.

I thank you for your support of law enforcement and public safety officials across the State of Alaska, but especially here in Anchorage, and I urge you to pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,


Chief Justin Doll
Anchorage Police Department