



Anchorage
Police
Department
employees
Association

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Representative Holmes,

The Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA) represents approximately 500 employees at the Anchorage Police Department (APD). The APDEA thanks you for sponsoring HB 247 and encourages all members of the Alaska State Legislature to support HB 247 and public safety in Alaska.

Currently, APDEA members are the only metropolitan-area police employees in the United States without a predictable retirement plan. We recently conducted a survey of large metropolitan police departments and state police/trooper agencies across the U.S. and found that the APD was the only department that lacked any form of defined benefit retirement. Quite simply, APD has fallen out of the competition for the most qualified applicants when compared to other law enforcement agencies and the United States military, which as a single source, provides our greatest number of police recruits. For example, the Municipality of Anchorage had hoped for at least 28 recruits in the 2013 police academy – instead we netted only 16. Also, in 2013 we saw a record number of fully trained and seasoned officers leave for other departments. HB 247 is a major step in correcting these problems.

The APDEA's representatives have spent scores of hours meeting with legislators, staff and other public officials. What we repeatedly heard was an acknowledgement of a need for change while maintaining an eye toward fiscal responsibility. Fiscal responsibility has been defined as: 1. no increased cost to the Municipality; 2. no likelihood of future unfunded liabilities; and 3. dependable benefits. HB247 addresses all of those concerns.

Alaska's public safety employees meet the rigorous challenges of their jobs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As the representative of these employees, APDEA and our partners have designed a retirement program that falls within the fiscal parameters outlined above, and now we are asking the Alaska State Legislature to consider and support the plan. If I can answer any questions about the bill, please feel free to call me any time at (907) 529-7033.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Hsieh".

Derek Hsieh
President
APDEA