

Dear Legislator:

2/24/13

I, James W. Sears, Jr., am writing you in reference to HB 116 Military Medical Buyback. Please support this bill. I have served in the military and proudly serve the people of Alaska currently. This bill would provide options for only about 200 prior service military veterans in the State of Alaska Tier II and Tier III system. I believe that it would actually save the State money in the long run. The bill would allow members to retire between their twentieth and twenty-fifth years with full medical coverage depending on how many years they are eligible to buy and would only fill the gap until the magical age of 60. These members are some of the highest paid in the State and are often the most injured. Law Enforcement is a young man's game and is more dangerous and expensive in your 50's.

Even though I support the bill, I will probably not take advantage of it myself based on my age. 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. We are not asking for a hand out, we would be buying the medical coverage.

Thank you for your service and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JWS', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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