

2-24-13

Dear Legislator,

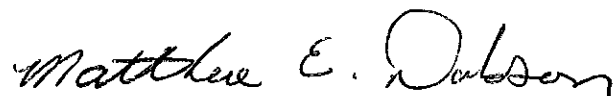
I, Matthew E. Dobson, am writing you in reference to HB 116 Military Medical Buyback. Please support this bill. I proudly served this country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and am a combat veteran. For the last sixteen plus years I have proudly served the people of Alaska as a State Trooper in Sitka, Anchorage, Bethel and now Juneau. By supporting this bill it would give a handful of veterans like me the option of separating from state service between our 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> year. This option is not a handout as each veteran would be purchasing their own medical coverage.

In my mind, this is also a way for the state to save money as Troopers with over 20 years of experience tend to be on the high end of the pay scale, but for the most part on the low end of productivity. The majority of Tier II and Tier III Troopers that I know would like the option of retiring after 20 years, but currently cannot afford to do so without having full medical coverage. Thus, they "hang on" for another five years. Troopers in this age range are also more susceptible to on the job injuries.

By passing this bill it would give a small number of veterans the option of retiring after 20 years of service, show incredible support for the veterans in this Department, help with recruitment and save the state money.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew E. Dobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew E. Dobson

PSEA Member

Department of Public Safety

Juneau, Alaska