

Dear Legislator:

2/24/13

My name is Marc Cloward and I am employed by the State of Alaska as a State Trooper. Prior to that, I served in the US Air Force. I am writing you in reference to HB 116 Military Medical Buyback. I respectfully encourage you to support and advance this bill. This bill would provide options for about 200 prior service military veterans in the State of Alaska Tier II and Tier III system. I truly believe that it would actually save the State money in the long run.

As it currently stands I need 20 years of service as a State Trooper to retire, but as a Tier III employee, I must have 25 years to get medical coverage. This means I'll need to work 25 years and when coupled with the 5 years military time I've already purchased, will equate to a 30 pension and medical benefits.

This new bill would allow me to work a true 20 year police retirement, buy my military time for both pension and medical and retire at 25 years credited service (medical included) and ultimately save the State and additional 5 years of increased pension premiums. More notably the additional 5 years (putting me at 30 years) would also be paid at my highest wage earning potential.

The bill would simply 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 age of 60. These members are some of the highest paid in the State and are often the most injured.

I support the bill and will definitely take advantage of it if given the opportunity. This bill is also a great way to show support for our veterans, increase morale, and assist in recruiting former veterans. Most of all, it saves the State money. Thank you for supporting HB116.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marc D. Cloward
Public Safety Employees Association
Cordova, AK