

Good evening Representative Millett,

My name is James Baisden, and I'm the Fire Chief for the Nikiski Fire Department located on the Kenai Peninsula.

I also serve as the 1st Vice President for the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association.

On Thursday I presented HB116 to the Alaska Fire Chiefs, and to the Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs Association meetings.

Both Fire Chief groups are supportive of this effort to help our veterans.

I will be working on letters of support from the two Fire Chief Associations, as well as asking the Kenai Representatives to support the bill.

I did a survey of the fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula, and have found that HB116 could have an effect on approximately 10 firefighters.

Nikiski =5, Central Emergency Services =2, Bear Creek =2, Homer = 1

Out of the 10 firefighters that this bill has an effect on, I'm the only firefighter that has paid for my 5 years of military time.

My retirement numbers are pretty simple. I paid \$39,000 for my five years of US Air Force time to PERS from 1989 to 1994.

I joined the Alaska Fire Service in 1994 and will have 20 years of active service with the State of Alaska next year.

I will have 25 years of paid time in retirement as a firefighter. When I'm eligible to retire next year, I will not be eligible for medical benefits.

If you know of any upcoming committee meetings that I can speak at to support this effort please let me know.

Please thank Representative Millett for sponsoring HB116 on behalf of veterans.

James Baisden