

**From:** [Bender, Steven M.](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Bart LeBon](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Kelly Merrick](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Ben Carpenter](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#)  
**Subject:** HB 79  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:31:18 AM

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Dear Representative,

My name is Steven Bender, I was born and raised in Alaska and want to keep this wonderful state my home. I am a Tier IV employee and work in the public service sector and am writing you about support for House Bill 79. I urge the House Finance Committee to take action on this bill / continue to move it through the legislative process for the future of public service in Alaska.

I have had many friends leave their jobs in Alaska, where they wanted to call home, for the same job in the states that gave them better retirements. The turnover in the past 5 years for Tier IV employees has been massive and hurts the state financially due to the constant hiring and training of new employees. I have personally seen the interest in public safety jobs in the state loss massive interest due to the more favorable retirements in the states. Fire Departments now a days only receive just a percentage of applicants they use to get, because of the more competitive retirements out of state. I went to school at University of Alaska Fairbanks for firefighting so I could be a firefighter in this state. Most of my fellow students all went to the states for jobs with better retirement and constantly remind me how much better they have it then me. I recognize there is additional cost to this bill, but I believe if you allow HB 79 to pass and we get a more competitive retirement, it will lower the cost in the long run due to less hiring and cost of training new hires.

For Tier IV employees, HB 79 is a solution to what is plaguing the public service sector for the great state of Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Steven Bender  
AFD Probationary Firefighter