

From: Bowey, Todd K. <todd.bowey@anchorageak.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 4:45 PM  
To: Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Support HB79

Dear Representative Kopp,

I am writing in support of HB 79. I have served as a firefighter for 28 years. I started with the Alaska Air National Guard and now I work for the Anchorage Fire Department. I'm currently enrolled in the Tier 3 retirement plan and feel very fortunate. Had I been hired under the current plan I would no longer live here. There are many departments all over the country that offer the security of a defined benefit plan. As I near my retirement, I look at the firefighters coming up in the system and a large majority are looking elsewhere. This will be catastrophic for the State for a long term plan of public safety. You can't cycle police and firefighters every five years. The experience and the training I have received is needed. We simply need to retain this next generation of workers. The only incentive of the tier 4 plan is the ability to leave and take your retirement with you. That's a bad idea.

Todd Bowey  
Retired Alaska Air National Guard  
Current Firefighter with Anchorage Fire