

**From:** [Matthew Fraize](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#)  
**Cc:** [Ken Truitt](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#)  
**Subject:** HB 79  
**Date:** Monday, April 15, 2019 10:21:40 PM

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Representative Tilton,

I am writing to you in support of HB79. I have been an Anchorage Police Officer for almost 18 years and my wife Angelina Fraize has been in Law Enforcement about 17 1/2 years, first with the Department of Corrections and now with the Anchorage Police Department. We have both been very fortunate to be enrolled and vested in PERS Tier III. We have plans of staying with the Anchorage Police Department until at least 25 years of service to our community. We are both highly trained officers with invaluable experience that can not be replaced every 3-5 years by new officers who often have little life and professional experience to relate to the job they do. As those experiences build up, the community is served in a more efficient, compassionate and professional manor. PERS Tier III has given my wife and I an incentive to stay here in Anchorage for our entire career.

As other opportunities have come our way over the last 17 years, we've always compared what we would be gaining and what we would be giving up if we left the state for another law enforcement agency. PERS Tier III has always been the underlying factor that weighed the heaviest in our decisions to stay here in Anchorage.

Today, the majority of the officers I work with on patrol are in PERS Tier IV. As I talk to the best and the brightest I hear over and over again how much they love living in Alaska and working for one of the best law enforcement agencies in the country, but they are actively looking at Agencies like Denver PD because of their pension and very attractive lateral police recruitment. These officers have left time and time again and the City of Anchorage and the State of Alaska are losing these valuable assets that move away with all of their training and experience that we invested in them. Time and time again when I hear from these officers that have left, they have become "rising stars" in their new departments because we have let the best of our best slip away again and again. Let's stop this brain drain. We have the best of the best, let's keep them!

Thank you for your service to our state,

Senior Patrol Officer Matthew Fraize  
Anchorage Police Department  
Chugiak Resident

Sent from my iPhone