

From: [Jessica Gunderson](#)
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](#)
Cc: [Jessica Gunderson](#); [Cameron Gunderson](#); [Cameron Gunderson](#)
Subject: House Bill 79 Support
Date: Saturday, May 4, 2019 1:33:45 PM

Hello,

I am the EMS Logistics Manager for the Anchorage Fire Department as well a State of Alaska and Nationally Registered Paramedic. I am a wife and mother of three children. I am a member of the Tier IV retirement system and will not be eligible for social security.

I am writing in support of House Bill 79. I vehemently urge you, the House Finance Committee, to take action on this bill and continue to move it through the legislative process.

Tier IV has been proven time and time again to be an inadequate retirement system for public safety employees. Our state invests heavily in training public safety employees. We have exceptional and progressive Fire and Police departments that require 12-18 months of intense training and expensive equipment. Each year these departments lose significant numbers of highly trained, desirable people to other departments in the country because the retirement in Alaska is woefully in inadequate.

As a state, we are no longer competitive in recruiting individuals from other states to come test for these departments. My husband, who also works for the Anchorage Fire Department as an Engineer / Paramedic, was hired in Alaska as a Fire Fighter in 2004 under Tier III. We moved here from Nevada to begin his career. A significant influence in that decision was the Defined Benefit Retirement.

As a taxpayer, I do recognize there will be a cost to this bill, but the cost of doing nothing will be much greater. We are literally training excellent law enforcement and first responders only to lose them 3 years later after an investment of over \$1,000,000 has been spent per employee. That is not sustainable!!

Tier IV requires a solution. HB79 will provide it.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gunderson