

From: [max Harvey](#)
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: House Bill 79
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:51:43 AM

I am writing to you today in regards to my support of House Bill 79. I am a Tier IV employee and am greatly concerned about our current retirement system. I share these concerns with many, many other Tier IV employees and the need for a solution is critical. We recognize there is a cost to this bill but the cost to do nothing is much greater. I am in the Public Safety sector as a Firefighter/EMT, and Tier IV has proven time and time again to be inadequate. There are many costly issues by having this inadequate retirement system. I have witnessed many times the state waste time and money on training employees who then leave the state in search of a better retirement. I know for a fact that there are many employees in Public Safety that are actively searching for other employment out of state as we speak. Not only are we losing highly trained employees, we are struggling to recruit new employees. We are no longer competitive in our hiring process. This is very concerning because by having a highly competitive hiring process we can obtain the most effective and desired first responders. We need to have the best of the best responding in emergent situations, which will ultimately provide for the best safety of the community. I am concerned for the longevity of our Fire/Police department employees. We are in a profession that has the potential to be very dangerous and poses risks to health and well-being of employees. Working a 30 year career with the lack of an adequate retirement system is terrifying. After putting your mind and body on the line every day at work, Tier IV employees should be able to rest easy with an adequate retirement as a goal. House Bill 79 would be the solution we need to retain employees, increase recruitment, and provide an adequate retirement to the men and women who devote their lives to protecting and serving the community we love.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Max Harvey – Anchorage Resident

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