

**From:** [Jake Lamphier](#)  
**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:** Letter of Support for HB 79  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 11:10:15 AM

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Member of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jake Lamphier, I am an Alaskan, I live in Chugiak and am a father to two young girls with a stay at home wife. Beyond being known as a father and husband within my circle of friends, they are all keenly aware that I am a professional career firefighter.

I have spent close to 10 years serving my community from Fairbanks to Soldotna and currently in Anchorage. I work at Fire Station 4 on Tudor Rd, as a paramedic and firefighter I staff two of the busiest apparatus in the entire state. Our number of emergency responses per apparatus regularly eclipse 4000 calls per year.

I was fortunate enough to earn the opportunity to serve the public at a young age (22) and my hope is to serve for 30 years. Unfortunately, If HB 79 is not passed, this goal with simply not be feasible. Without a defined benefit for my service and lack of finances to cover the burgeoning cost of healthcare, retirement at the age of 52 will not be possible.

The current Tier IV plan is costing this state dearly, it's a clear lack of attention to the needs of public service employees and if not replaced, we as a state will continue to lose employees to other states. In addition to losing employees, recruitment will continue to suffer, prospective employees will not only have to be willing to sacrifice their lives for the public, but do so without the added protection of a defined benefit and secure healthcare.

I urge you to pass this bill, because by not doing so will only continue the hemorrhaging of people leaving this state, only worsening the economic outlook of Alaska. As my elected officials and leadership of our state, this is your opportunity to show your commitment to the public safety community.

Your dedicated public employee,

Jake Lamphier  
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