

From: [Hunter McConnel](#)
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 House Bill 79
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:51:22 AM

Members of the House Finance Committee -

First of all, thank you for taking your valuable personal time to read this email. My name is Hunter McConnel and I am a Fire fighter with the Municipality of Anchorage Fire Department. I have been employed here for the last 6 years and I am a Tier 4 employee. Prior to my current position I was employed as a full-time Firefighter at the North Star Volunteer Fire Department in North Pole. My last position was not a State of Alaska position and I left to come to a Fire Department that had a State of AK retirement. Unfortunately I have come to discover in the last 6 years that the Tier 4 State retirement does not offer much more benefit than the private retirement system that I left. What this means for me is the probability of working at my current job until the age of 60 before I can "retire". This means another 26 years as a firefighter in addition to the 16 years I have already worked. Unfortunately I do not foresee being able to sustain another 26 years with the physical demands of my job, and therefore I have been considering; and applying for jobs in the state of Washington, which still has a defined benefit retirement system. This is the most realistic solution to the current retirement dilemma I see.

Should Alaska bring back a defined benefit system than I would love to stay here. I have lived in Alaska for 17 years, nearly half of my life; and I consider myself a proud resident of this fine state. Thank you again very much for reading this letter and a huge thank you for considering moving House Bill 79 forward to help benefit all Tier 4 workers who share my situation.

Hunter McConnel
Firefighter at the Anchorage Fire Dept.