

From: [Jacob Ohms](#)
To: [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: HP 79
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:52:16 AM

Dear Representative,

My name is Jacob Ohms and I am a lifelong Alaskan.

I urge you to support House Bill 79.

I was born and raised in Anchorage. I have lived in Alaska for my entire life. I have lived and worked in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Soldotna and Girdwood. I currently live in Girdwood and plan on making that my permanent home, if I can afford to stay in the state.

I work for the Anchorage Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic. This is my dream job, helping and protecting the citizens and visitors of Alaska's biggest city. It is a job I tested for 5 separate times and in my career I do not want to leave.

I do not want to leave Alaska or my career but I am concerned with the retirement for public safety employees. I am 30 years old and have already had 1 back surgery. I understand that I will not be able to put up with the physical nature of this job into my late 50's and 60's. If tier 4 remains in place I will not be able to retire until then. When I do retire I will have an uncertain future.

Many friends and coworkers that I've known and met over my 12 years in emergency services have left the state for defined benefit plans. A Defined benefit plan gives the people that will pull your family out of a fire or perform CPR on your loved ones the security that after a 25 year career they can hopefully retire safely.

Training Police, Firefighters and Paramedics is extremely expensive. We are training people to a high level then seeing them leave for a secure retirement plan.

I want to stay in Alaska. I want to raise a family and be able to show them everything this state has to offer. Without a secured retirement system I am actively looking to leave for another state that does. I have 12 years as a firefighter and 9 years as a paramedic. I want my experience to stay in state where it belongs. I ask you to support House Bill 79.

Sincerely,

Jacob Ohms
Firefighter/Paramedic
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