

**From:** [fishcrazy@reagan.com](mailto:fishcrazy@reagan.com)  
**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:** Urging support for HB79  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2019 8:52:33 AM

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Hello

My name is Robert Pereira and I am a firefighter who works in Anchorage. I have worked at this job, doing what I love, for the past 26 years. I enjoy the benefit of knowing I have a secure retirement. Sadly, my brothers and sisters in public safety who rely on their Tier IV retirement cannot say the same thing. I am writing you today, urging your support of House Bill 79. PERS Tier IV has been proven to be an inadequate retirement system for public safety. Tier IV PERS members in Anchorage are ineligible to receive Social Security or SBS, giving them no safety net in the event of market downturns. The State of Alaska, municipalities, and boroughs across the state are wasting money by training and investing in public safety employees only to have them seek employment elsewhere with defined benefit retirement plans. Additionally, recruitment of top-tier employees is increasingly difficult due to the fact that there is no secure retirement guarantee. The State of Alaska is having to make difficult financial decisions and I recognize there is a cost associated with this bill. However, the cost of doing nothing will be far greater when highly trained individuals take their training and leave the state for a secure retirement benefit elsewhere. Tier IV requires a solution. House Bill 79 is that solution. I urge the House Finance Committee to take action on this bill and continue to move it through the legislative process. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Robert Pereira