

**From:** Gail Pierson <bpierson14@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** House Bill 79

Greetings,

My name is Gail Pierson and I've lived in Alaska for the past 42 years. This email overwhelmingly supports HB79 Public Safety retirement program.

The current Tier IV is an ongoing failure to attract and retain Public Safety employees. The State is repetitively recruiting these valuable employees only to lose them after they receive expensive training and experience. The enormous expense of training will continue to be repeated unless changes are made. Alaska is no longer a competitive recruiter for Public Safety Servants.

First responders put their life and health on the line, while providing a high standard of services for the community and Alaska residents. Following years of service, many responders carry insidious medical and job related health problems.

There is a cost related to HB79 but, lack of action will only drive Alaska's expenses up in the long term.

HB79 is a positive step to mitigate the revolving door and save Alaska money in the long haul for the Public Safety service we so desperately need.

I am urging the House Finance Committee, without delay, to continue to progress HB79 through the legislative process.

Regards,

Gail Pierson