

From: Kirt Stage-Harvey <kirt.stageharvey@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 1:22 PM

To: Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>

Subject: Letter in support of Tier V

4/17/2019

Representative Andi Story
Alaska Representative, District 34
State Capitol, Room 110
Juneau Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Andi Story:

I would like to discuss a growing concern for public safety within the State of Alaska. As you know, nearly half of public safety workers now fall into the Tier IV retirement system. My concern is that this retirement system will not provide an adequate retirement for our frontline public safety workers including firefighters, police officers, and State Troopers. This concern is shared by labor and management and has real financial consequences for the State and local municipalities in the form of recruitment and retention. The cost of training a new public safety member in the state is approximately \$190,000 which, in the past, was spread out over a 25-year career. We are now seeing our well-trained public safety members leave after 5 years and the money which could be used for training and equipment is now being used to recruit and train new officers. This also leaves our public safety departments with less experience as we continue to bring in newer members. This problem has been well stated by nearly every public safety department within the State and there is no sign of this trend reversing without action from the legislature.

Over the last 12 years we have worked to find a solution that solves the recruitment and retention crisis and also protects the State from an unfunded liability. With a conservative approach that offers a modest benefit we can attract and retain the best public safety workers. I encourage you to support House Bill 79 which offers a practical solution to this growing problem and sets the State up to be competitive again. Thank you for taking the time to review this letter and for your work in Juneau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirt Stage-Harvey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirt Stage-Harvey
Juneau Constituent / Police Officer
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