

From: Upchurch, Thomas H. <thomas.upchurch@anchorageak.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:37 AM

To: Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB79

Chuck,

I'm writing to you in support of HB79. As a Fire Fighter for 18 years one of the last few with a pension; I want you to know the difficulties our future has for us as a Fire Department without a defined benefit. I have witnessed great people leave our department for another career department with a defined benefit. Each time when we are in need of new people the application numbers have dropped significantly. When I tested in the year 2000, I competed against 1400 people. The department easily attained 170 qualified people to choose from. Now during our testing process, we're lucky to get 350 people to show up and find 30-40 who meet the minimum standards, and then keeping them after spending tens of thousands of dollars to train them to the high standards we as department require. Something needs to happen for our future and a defined benefit like HB79 is the answer.

Thank you for your time,

Tom Upchurch