

From: [Wallace, Kevin R.](#)
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](#); [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: House Bill 79
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:31:05 AM

Dear Representative,

My name is Kevin Wallace I am writing in support of House Bill 79. I have been a live long Alaskan born and raised in Southeast. Following high school graduation I elected to seek employment in the public safety sector (Fire Service) and reside raising a family in the state I truly love. Over the past 31 years I have worked in multiple ranks and currently hold the rank of Senior Fire Captain with the Anchorage Fire Department.

When I started my fire service career it was with the understanding I would be provided a fair wage and PERS Tier II. This was a good working environment with a fair and honest retirement package.

Over the years I have been witness to multiple changes in the states retirement system. Working in a specific job allows you to see firsthand the impacts . I have witnessed the increasing demands now placed on the public safety professionals. The demands placed by the services provided by all public safety departments has changed the job and culture of the public safety professional . They now face more scrutiny from a public that expects a higher level of service with increased job duties and higher health and safety risks.

The public continues to ask without truly understanding what those individuals will witness and endure in a single shift. While continuing to asking those who serve to accept the unforeseen increased medical costs and growing inflation costs.

The public safety profession over the past few years is still continuing to lose its desire with many young members who now only work for a short term and then choose other types of safer employment . Alaska will continue to grow and as the infrastructure and population ages . We will need younger men and women to step up and start working in the public safety field.

House Bill 79 is the first step in the direction to start securing the future of public safety in Alaska. I have personally witness many skilled individuals seeking employment outside for pension driven departments. This problem will only worsen as many states in the lower 48 are seeing a need for skilled public safety employees. Alaska has become a market place for outside departments as we continue to training good individuals to only be hired within 5years in departments outside. The problem of retaining qualified and highly skilled employees in Alaska will continue to worsen with the Law Enforcement and Firefighter EMT/Paramedic shortages nationwide.

Thank you again for your time and consideration, Please contact me at (907) 232-8134 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Kevin R. Wallace

