

From: [Sierra Winegarner](#)
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: Support of House Bill 79
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:08:12 PM

To the Representatives of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support and personal stake in House Bill 79. I am a lifelong Alaska resident and long term partner of a Firefighter/EMT for the Anchorage Fire Department.

While my partner is a long term Alaskan resident, he also has family ties outside the state in places with much more competitive public safety retirement benefits. This would be a consideration for him to factor in when deciding if he wants to maintain an Alaskan resident or leave. The state has already invested hundreds and thousands of dollars on training him and will also soon be paying for his paramedic training. This money would be wasted if he left the state after all of this training. Alaska needs better incentives to recruit and retain their employees.

I strongly believe the retirement program proposed in HB79 is a solution to all the problems with the current Tier IV system and I urge you to take action on this bill and continue to move it forward through the legislative process.

Thank you for your time and consideration in hearing from your constituents on this issue. I appreciate your service to the state.

Thank you,
Sierra Winegarner
907-830-2492