

From: Tompkins, Katherine A.
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 10:29 PM
To: rep.andy.josephson@akleg.gov
Subject: HB55 - Letter of Support

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the public safety retirement bill, HB55, and implore you to continue moving this bill forward. Both the legislative and executive branches note that Alaska is having a public safety problem. While the problem is complex and the potential solutions need to be multifaceted, I believe that no solutions will be complete without addressing the retirement disparity for public safety officers that result in the outmigration of these valuable committee resources to other states. Alaska is struggling to not only recruit public safety servants, but to retain those that we have invested resources in training. Investing in heavy upfront training costs for public safety personnel, only to lose them to the other states that offer better retirement security is a waste of Alaska's fiscal resources to the benefit of other states.

Public safety officers perform physical strenuous work that makes a 35-45+ year career that individuals with a desk job can sustain difficult to maintain. This puts their ability to accrue retirement earnings under a 401(k), 403(b), or 457(b) at a disadvantage. Alaska has lost lifelong Alaskans public safety officers in the 25-35 year age range to other states, which results in a cohort deficit of mid level public safety workers.

I support that this legislation seeks to not only aid in recruitment and retention but to maintain fiscal responsibility. The move of using the high 3 to the high 5 years is a great addition to help address some of the issues that resulted in the state moving away from Tier 3 for all employees.

I strongly request that the committee makes movement on this bill during this year to hopefully pass the legislation this year, or to set this legislation up to be able to be passed in the second session in 2022.

Thank you,

Katherine McDonald

Anchorage, Alaska