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From: Cole Crockett <colecrockett90@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:19 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support HB55

Representative Josephson,

My name is Cole Crockett. I am a lifelong Alaskan and I am writing to ask that you please support HB55.

I have had the privilege to serve as a Firefighter Paramedic of the Anchorage Fire Department for the last eight years. This has given me the opportunity to give back to the community I grew up in and allowed me to start a family of my own. I want my children to grow up here as well. I want to be able to retire here, in Alaska. Under the current PERS Tier 4 plan, that is not feasible. HB55 can help.

As it stands, I may be working as a firefighter into my 60s, another 30 years, before I qualify for retirement. Add in my four years with the University Fire Department (Fairbanks, AK), and I am looking at a 40+ year career doing a job that is taxing physically, mentally, and emotionally. Tier 4 is insufficient and is costing the State of Alaska.

Recruitment for police and fire is down. Retention is down. Selling people on the idea that their defined contribution system is portable doesn't make people want to come to and stay in Alaska. It incentivizes leaving the state after initial training and vesting in PERS, sometimes even earlier. For police and fire jobs, this initial training can run in the ballpark of hundreds of thousands of dollars per employee. People leave in droves for positions in other systems that offer defined benefits and healthcare.

That's where I am at now. I love Alaska. I want to live, work, play, and raise my family here. But the clear route to security in retirement is leaving this land that I love for a position elsewhere.

HB55 could change that. Please support HB55. Please show Alaska's public servants that the state sees our value. Please help us find the security we need to make life and retirement in Alaska possible.

Thank you for your support,

Cole Crockett