

From: Emily Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 55

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing today in regards to HB 55 and supporting Alaska's Tier 4 employees with a sustainable retirement. I am a 5 year professional firefighter with the city of Anchorage, and was hired under the Tier 4 system. Peace officers, firefighters and corrections officers deserve a decent retirement. House Bill 79 is about supporting

Alaska's future. As a state, we are losing Tier 4 employees too fast because they are looking elsewhere for a retirement for their families. For example, the Anchorage Police Department is losing employees faster than they

can hire, and the current crime situation in Anchorage is indicative of this because standard officer patrol staffing is

so incredibly minimal. As a firefighter, I am constantly worried about my retirement.

As a firefighter, I go to work not knowing if I will return home the following day. We have fires and many medical

calls that are downright scary (i.e. homicides, shootings, crimes, etc.) Myself, and other coworkers, are considering

leaving our jobs to work at other departments in other states because they offer a defined benefit retirement.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. Thank you for being open-minded and considering pushing

forward House Bill 55. There is a cost to this bill, like anything, but the cost of doing nothing will be much greater. Is neglecting Alaska's future worth it?

Sincerely,

Emily Thompson

Professional Firefighter, Anchorage Fire Dept.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Molle, Dustin T [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 55

Representative Andy Josephson,

I am writing this email in regards to House Bill 55. My Name is Dustin Molle I am 35 years old and married.

My wife and I were both born and raised in Alaska. Our friends and family also live here and we plan on living our lives here and enjoying all the beauty and excitement that Alaska has to offer.

I have worked in the fire service for 4 years, all of which have been with the Anchorage Fire Department.

My choice to join the fire service started when I was a child and I've spent my entire life working towards that goal. With many departments to choose from across the country the Anchorage Fire Department has always been my first choice. In my time as a working adult here in Alaska, I have held other jobs, but none as emotionally satisfying as the life of a firefighter. Unfortunately, none have been quite as physically taxing as the life of a firefighter. I hope to illustrate the importance of having a system that supports the members of this fine state at the time of their retirement. The men and women who make the choice to put personal health and longevity aside for the love of the job and their fellow Alaskans. It is a hard truth that many of us will endure some form of long term adverse health effects from performing our duties through the course of our career. As a young man choosing to make this my career path, the idea of long term effects was something I considered, but through the eyes of youth and enthusiasm it seemed like farfetched consequence. As I consider the future now that I have children, this weighs more on my mind, and is accompanied by a heavier sense of reality. I feel that despite my best efforts to maintain my physical and mental health over the entirety of my service, achieving a career of 20 years will be a great challenge, and with being a participant of the tier IV system retiring at 20 years is just as unlikely as concluding my time in the fire service without a significant illness or injury.

Unfortunately the Tier IV retirement system has already pushed many Alaskans out of their homes in search of a retirement system that adequately provides for their families. My wife and I hope to not be one of those families, but the reality is that despite our love for Alaska, and all the time and money that the Anchorage Fire Department has already invested in my hiring and training, I have to be realistic, and consider the fact that there is comparable pay with a pension in many other states that will provide better retirement than that afforded to Tier IV members. I have unfortunately watched many coworkers already leave the Anchorage Fire Department to be a firefighter elsewhere due to a more competitive retirement.

Please, I urge you to strongly consider the benefits of House Bill 55. If not for our families, then consider the

tremendous financial burden that the state of Alaska will continue to endure as men and women use Alaska to get the expensive training required for their careers just to later relocate into a pension system elsewhere.

Thank you for reading this email and considering the future of Alaska.

Dustin Molle

[REDACTED]

From: Shayla Swenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Tier 4 retirement

To whom it may concern,

I have been a member of the Anchorage Fire Department for ten years. I am proud to serve my community and have strong family ties to public safety. I work along side my uncle who is a Captain with the Anchorage Fire department and my grandparents who are retired members of Law Enforcement in Alaska. Both my Uncle and grandparents served and continue to serve their respective communities with peace of mind knowing that they would be taken care of in retirement. Under the current State of Alaska Tier IV retirement system I can not provide that security for myself and family. I grew up in Anchorage and I enjoy taking part in every aspect of this state. There is no other place my husband and I would rather raise our growing family and I love sharing this state with my family. Under the current retirement system it is very hard for me to not consider leaving Alaska. Other fire departments are offering a defined pension and medical in retirement. I can leave Anchorage, start from the ground up at a different department and still be able to retire before 65 and have a better retirement to be able to provide for my family and I. I am forced to choose between living in a place I love and providing certain future for myself and family. I only ask that after a long career of putting my health on the line for this community that I will be financially secure in retirement just as my Uncle and grandparents.

Thank you for your time,
Shayla Swenson

From: luke Duffy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:35 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 55 support

Good Evening Randy Josephson

My name is Luke Duffy. I am writing you this email concerning HB 55. I was born and raised here in Anchorage, Alaska. I have been with the Anchorage Fire Department since 2015. A little about my journey. After college I started teaching in Anchorage at Service High School In 2004. I was fortunate to barely sneak into the TRS tier 2 defined benefit system. I am also fortunate to be vested in this system. My monthly pension will be small due to lack of longevity in the TRS. I began testing for the Anchorage Fire Department In 2005. I continued to test until finally getting hired in 2015. I am currently in the PRS tier 4 defined contribution. I probably will never leave anchorage. I have a wife and 3 kids and all of our families or here. I have had several conversations though with my wife about moving to a fire department in Washington or Idaho specifically because they have a pension system. Many of my friends have left AFD to outside departments. I have always been interested in helping people and to make a positive impact on people's lives. This is was a significant reason I chose to be a teacher and be a coach. When I was ready for a for a new challenge in my life, I finally applied and was hired with the Anchorage Fire Department. As an employee of public safety, I feel there should be a pension system. I believe HB 55 is a good solution to getting a defined benefit back into public safety. We have an opportunity to do this and to do it right and responsible. Currently the Tier IV is an inadequate retirement system. I am 43 years old and will be working well into my 60's to help provide for my family with this current system. It's time to make a change for our public safety employees. Please consider supporting HB 55 Thank you for your time and support

Sincerely,

Luke Duffy

Anchorage Fire Department

From: Adam Farrell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson

Subject: HB 55

Dear Representative Andy Josephson,

My name is Adam Farrell, and I am emailing you in regards to HB 55. I was born and raised in Alaska, and in 2007 I was lucky enough to get my dream job with the Anchorage Fire Department. Since I was hired in 2007 that put me in the first group in the Tier IV retirement system. I am writing in support of HB 55, and urging all of you to move it through the legislative process. As some of you might know, it is very expensive to train new public safety employees. What we are starting to see is people leave after they get their training and some experience. I do not blame them for doing this because I have considered doing a lateral hire to another fire department in Washington. Being married and having three beautiful daughters really makes me consider how I am going to manage retirement, and moving out of state is a very real option. The decision to move out of Alaska does not come lightly to me, but I have to think about what's best for my family. Thanks for taking the time to read my email.

Adam Farrell

Anchorage Fire Department

(907)355-1975