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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Anchorage firefighter  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:48 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Alyce Lord <[alyce-eric@hotmail.com](mailto:alyce-eric@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 9:06 PM  
To: Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Anchorage firefighter

Dear sirs/madams

I am a 38 year plus Alaskan. I've been reading about the disparity in the Tier 4 retirement system and am hopeful that a new plan will be put into place. It is costly to keep training new recruits and the current system is not going to build a strong committed crew. I know the Tier 1/2 programs are not sustainable but we need to find a middle ground.

Thanks for your time and consideration  
Alyce lord

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:42 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nicole Gallien <[nrgallien@yahoo.com](mailto:nrgallien@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 8:39 PM  
To: Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Support HB 55

My name is Nicole Gallien and I am writing this letter to voice my support for HB 55. I support our public safety personnel in this state and I believe they deserve a real retirement. The current retirement is costing the state hundreds of thousands dollars every year as the highly trained people leave our state for ones that have a defined benefit system. HB 55 will fix this and cost the state less than the current brain drain and it's the right thing to do to take care of our first responders since they sacrifice so much for us. I support HB 55 and urge you to as well.

Nicole Gallien  
1125 East Donna Circle  
Wasilla AK 99654

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:39 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jenna Frederic <jennafrederic@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 8:34 PM  
To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Support of HB55

Hello there,

I am writing you this email in support of the House Bill 55 and ask that you please support our city's first responders.

The members of our police and fire department were vital in getting us through the Covid-19 and continue to support our community at a moments notice. They deserve to have a retirement that suits the risks they put into their job. This is the time to come together and show our appreciation. Anchorage's public safety members face risks on their jobs every day, their families deal with it appropriately. Please take care of our first responders, their families and our community with this bill as they well deserve it!

The men and women who come running in our time of need, are asking us to return the favor for them.

Keep our city safe by supporting our first responders through HB 55.

Thank you,  
Jenna Frederic

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 55 Support  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:36 PM

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**From:** Lindsay Belk <lindsayabelk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 8:26 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 55 Support

Senators,

I am asking you to please support HB 55 and to move it on to the body and Governor Dunleavy. Our public safety members are hard working individuals risking their lives on a daily basis for the people of Alaska. They go through rigorous academy's and training to get on the line and maintain their skills. However, Alaska is losing experienced individuals on a regular basis to other states with pensions and better retirement plans. This bill is a great step to improve recruitment and retention, and to keep our experienced responders in our great state. When I call 911, I want an experienced team to be there for me when I need it the most. I hope you feel the same, and our not influenced by some outside political group.

Respectfully,  
Lindsay Belk

(907) 854-9033  
22444 Sambar Loop  
Chugiak, AK 99567

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Firefighter's pension bill HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:32 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Bryant <jebryant20@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 8:01 PM  
To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Firefighter's pension bill HB55

Hi, I am writing to support HB 55. My son-in-law is an Anchorage Firefighter who loves his job but tells me that the firefighters don't get a pension. Because of this, the fire department loses people every year to outside fire departments that have a pension. Please help stop this drain of qualified people to other communities that we have trained by supporting HB55. It is the right thing to do for these first responders who risk their lives for us. I have experienced their expert care when I was in pain and could not move due to a back injury. Alaska needs these dedicated folks and we should do what we can to support them in retirement. Thanks, Julie Bryant, 4711 Potter Crest Cir. Anchorage AK 99516.

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:29 PM

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**From:** Tyler Currier <tylerjcurrier@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 7:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB 55

My name is Tyler Currier, I am an Anchorage firefighter. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska. As i'm sure you are well aware, Alaska is currently losing money and valuable experience with our current retirement system.

Both sides must be considered and this is a mutually beneficial bill for all parties. Employees, state and retirees all have shared risk which so that no one group is left with liability. show your support for public safety by taking action on HB 55. Please consider the lives and families affected by your actions.

First responders face risk every day on the job. We are paid to not only face it, but handle it accordingly. All we are asking is that the legislature do the same.

Respectfully,

Tyler Currier

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:24 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Patricia Gallien <[gallienathome@gmail.com](mailto:gallienathome@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 6:53 PM  
To: Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Support for HB 55

My name is Patricia Gallien, I am a retiree in the state of Alaska. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation needs to be passed for the sake of Public Safety in Alaska. I have known many public safety employees over the years from Police Officers to Firefighters and Corrections Officers. All of them perform immensely important work and I have needed their services over the years and have never been let down by them. We are doing them a disservice, they put they bodies, minds, and health on the line to serve us and the least we can do is make sure they have an adequate retirement after all of their sacrifice. I know the state is constantly struggling to hire and retain these employees, the cost of continuing as we are is outweighing the reasonable costs set forth in HB55. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I again strongly support HB 55 and ask you to do the same.

Respectfully,  
Patricia Gallien  
2736 South Red Birch Drive  
Wasilla AK 99687  
907-394-1054

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:21 PM

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**From:** Efren j <ejauregui1337@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 6:09 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB55

My name is Efren Jauregui, I am an Anchorage firefighter. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska for many reasons. AK can no longer compete with the lower 48 when trying to recruit public safety employees. There are a lot of opportunities in with better retirement plans in the lower 48. Public safety officers will continue to get valuable training and experience here, then leave the state for other jurisdictions offering better benefits. I am seriously considering a change in profession that supports retirement options and longevity in the field. I have seen fellow employees leave for this same reason in my short time here. If we continue this same option, we should also expect to see additional costs to the state such as increased worker's compensation costs as our departments become staffed with an older workforce that lacks the financial security to retire. Please support HB55.



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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Support HB55 from an Anchorage Firefighter  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:18 PM

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**From:** Matt <matthewcarlson1111@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 5:50 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Support HB55 from an Anchorage Firefighter

Good Evening,

My name is Matthew Carlson and I am currently a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Anchorage Fire Department. I am writing to you to express my support for HB55. This bill is critical to ensure that we have adequate staffing for emergencies across our state. Before the Anchorage Fire Department, I worked for the University Fire Department and Fairbanks Fire Department. In the few years that I was at those departments, over 15 of my peers left Alaska for the lower 48 for fire departments that offer a secure retirement. Of the 30 that I graduated from the fire academy with in Fairbanks, about 5 are still in the state employed as full time firefighters. The rest have left. These firefighters came to Alaska, trained and received certifications through Alaska's expense, and left chasing better opportunities. HB55 will ensure that this isn't the case anymore. We can keep these firefighters in Alaska and continue to grow as first responders.

Please consider supporting HB55.

Best Regards,

Matthew Carlson  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Anchorage Fire Department Station 4

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:12 PM

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**From:** Mark Stephens <akstephensjm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB55

Senators,

My name is Mark Stephens and I am a Captain with the Anchorage Fire Department. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is necessary for the State of Alaska because AFD is having a very hard time retaining quality employees. Much money and time is invested in these firefighters to make them trained and competent firefighters. Many are getting the training and experience only to lateral transfer to other departments down South. There is not much incentive for them to stay with the current retirement system in place.

Thanks for considering this legislation and helping make Alaska a place good people want to work.

Mark Stephens  
4400 Edinburgh Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502  
AFD Captain, Station 9

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:09 PM

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**From:** Michael McCurtain <mike\_tricity@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; senator.natasha.vonImhof@akleg.gov; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB55

My name is Michael McCurtain, I am an Anchorage firefighter. I am writing in support of HB55. Our current retirement plan (Tier 4) sets our public safety employees up for failure in retirement. I come from a family of life-long Alaskans with two of my Grandparents being lucky enough to be part of the Tier 1 retirement system. Growing-up I constantly heard from my family how lucky we were to live/work here in Alaska and encouraged to work in public-service to this community. Alaska was a place that took care of their employees and families. Alaska was a state that did right by their employees!

Unfortunately, that story is no longer true. The current Tier 4 system (that I'm enrolled in) is not sufficient to provide families with an adequate retirement after a life dedicated to public service. It's sad when I talk to my grandmother (Tier 1) about the current retirement system and how Alaska no longer supports their employees. My family has a history of Fire Service and its crazy to all of us, that I work a job that presents significant health/life risks, yet the state of Alaska will not provide me a pension. Alaska is one of only two states that does not provide a pension for their employees. With the current retirement plan Alaska no longer does right by their employees.

I'm respectfully requesting your support with HB55, so that we can return Alaska to place where public service is encouraged and appreciated. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Michael McCurtain

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:05 PM

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**From:** Ryan Pasternak <pastrt53@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 2:23 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB55

Senator,

As a Firefighter and EMT2 with the Anchorage Fire Department, I am writing in support of House Bill 55. My family and I have seriously considered moving out-of-state to find better retirement opportunities in recent years and I believe this bill will make staying in Alaska, in my current career path, worthwhile. I am very passionate about my career and I love my job. The only reason I have not moved yet, like many families I know, is because of how much I enjoy what I do, the community I serve and the people I work alongside. This love of our home state and my work does not fill the gap for a livable retirement plan, however. This work is hard, physically taxing and unlike a typical 9-5, unsustainable into advanced age. For these reasons, a defined retirement plan provided by HB55 for those, like myself, exempt from Social Security benefits is a must.

I ask that you please keep my family and I in mind when you consider your support of HB55.

Thank you for your time,  
Ryan Pasternak  
Firefighter and EMT2

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:29:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Jeremy Conkling <president@apdea.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 2:10 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB55

Senators,

As President of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, and on behalf of over 550 members of the Anchorage Police Department, I email with the most ardent support for the passage of HB55. While I know you have all likely gotten some degree of pushback from special interest groups, largely run by organizations that have no significant ties to Alaska, I just wanted to send a quick note in support of this bill and a return to a defined benefit for our Alaskan public safety professionals.

I appreciate the diligent work you all do on behalf of Alaskans, and I respectfully request that you apply that same level of diligence when it comes to ignoring special interest groups and focusing on this bill being a reasonable solution to the staffing crisis our public safety departments are facing. With shared risk between employees, the state, and retirees, as well as safety mechanisms built in to the bill that we know from actuarial reports work as intended, this bill goes a long way towards fixing the retirement gap that our Tier IV Alaskan firefighters and police officers face, while also saving the State of Alaska money in the long run.

Thanks,  
Jeremy



**Sgt. Jeremy Conkling | APDEA President**  
[president@apdea.org](mailto:president@apdea.org) | [www.apdea.net](http://www.apdea.net)  
907.301.0709 | PO Box 230330, Anchorage AK 99523

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:57 PM

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**From:** Dave DeCaro <decaro.dave1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB55

To whom it may concern,

My name is David DeCaro, I am a FF/Paramedic with the Fairbanks Fire Department. I am writing to ask you to please consider supporting HB55. At FFD we are currently facing severe retention problems that results in multiple people being FORCED to work so that we can provide a minimal staffing level. This FORCED work has resulted in burnout, fatigue, performance issues, and issues in personal lives. We constantly see people interviewing and testing in other departments in states where there are more lucrative salaries, benefits, and retirements. While HB55 is not the ultimate solution for us, it is a step in the right direction for not only FFD, but all Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement agencies that provide State retirement. I urge you to pass HB55 so that a positive change can be made in retention of those who work in public safety.

Please pass this bill out of the Senate Finance committee for a vote on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David DeCaro

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:55 PM

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**From:** Markwood, Bruce A. <bruce.markwood@anchorageak.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 2:07 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB55

### Senators

I am writing to you today to provide you with a testimony for HB55 and its importance. As someone who has worked as an Alaska firefighter for the past twenty years, I have seen with much concern, the restlessness of the younger Alaskan firefighter generation. These men and women are continuously threatened by the nature of their job weather by an exposure to a carcinogen or being hit by a car on a traffic accident or countless other risks. I can testify that my coworkers are some of the brightest and best firefighters/EMTs/paramedics in the country ! We are proud of our department and the fact we can call Alaska home. I urge you to pass this bill to keep these fine professional men and women home by at least being competitive with other states and their retirement opportunities'.

Thank You

Bruce Markwood - Anchorage Resident

907-244-8792

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: For SAFETY's sake...please pass HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:50 PM

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**From:** Amy Kulp <amy.kulp@k12northstar.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** For SAFETY's sake...please pass HB 55

My Dear Alaska Senators,

For the last 27 years, I have watched the Fairbanks City Fire Department go from an alluring and competitive place to work...to a revolving door of young, qualified Alaskans leaving the state to seek better retirement/pay. Now Fairbanks is hard pressed to find new recruits. My husband is currently a Battalion Chief and he is saddened to see the current situation of this illustrious career and role in Alaska public safety.

I am worried about the health and safety of our EMS workers. I am worried about patients who have to wait and wait for help due to short-staffing. My husband is often "forced" to stay at work; yes, he *cannot leave* after working multiple 24 hour shifts (he is currently on his 7th shift with no clear end in sight). This is unsafe and unfair to health, marriages, families, and our community.

Of course there is a cost to HB 55; however, there is a much bigger cost to our State with a penny-pinching retirement system. Please pass HB 55 for the safety of us all.

With gratitude,  
Amy Kulp

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**Amy Kulp**  
Watershed Charter Library Media Associate  
[amy.kulp@k12northstar.org](mailto:amy.kulp@k12northstar.org)

*"I go to books and to nature as a bee goes to the flower; for a nectar that I can make into my own honey."*

*-John Burroughs in "The Summit of the Years"*





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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:46 PM

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**From:** Ian Longridge <[ianlongridge@gmail.com](mailto:ianlongridge@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 1:05 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for HB55

Senators,

My name is Ian Longridge, I am a firefighter in Fairbanks Alaska. I have been a firefighter in the Fairbanks area for 12 years. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska because our current retirement plan, PERS Tier 4, sets public safety employees up for failure once we retire. Numerous projections, presented to the legislature, have shown that Tier 4 provides insufficient amounts of money during retirement which will likely result in those employees running out of money in retirement. This reality has helped push numerous Tier 4 employees out of the state, seeking employment in states that provide a reasonable retirement for their public safety employees. The end result of this is that Alaska's fire departments have become training centers for the lower 48. Changing the retirement system to the program defined in HB55 would help keep more employees in Alaska for the long term. The more public safety employees that stay in Alaska directly translates to cost savings for the State and local entities. Additionally, if public safety employees stay in Alaska for their entire careers the service level provided to the citizens of Alaska will be better.

I implore you to pass HB55 out of the Senate Finance committee for a vote on the Senate floor. Passing this bill will only help make Alaska a better place for its citizens.

Thank you,  
Ian Longridge

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:40 PM

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Conrad Frick <[frickconrad@yahoo.com](mailto:frickconrad@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 12:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; senator.natasha.vonlmhof@akleg.gov; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for HB55

My name is Conrad Frick, I am an anchorage firefighter. I am writing to you this email as a testimony for HB55. I have been a Firefighter in Alaska since 2017. Since my time in Alaska I have become very familiar with the current retirement system. Alaska is where I would love to call home for the rest of my career as a firefighter. Even with Alaska being my first choice of employment/residence, I have been actively searching for another department outside of the state for the sole reason of a better retirement. I have seen first hand in my short career here at least 15 people leave to the lower 48 to join an organization with a better retirement system. Without any change to Alaskas current retirement system I will be forced to look out for my best interest and leave the state. I hope that you will consider placing your support into the passing of HB55.

Thank you

Conrad Frick - Anchorage Resident/Public Safety Employee

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:37 PM

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**From:** Nathan Durbin <durbin\_nathan24@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 12:51 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB 55

My name is Nathan Durbin, I am an Anchorage Firefighter/ Paramedic. I am writing in support of HB 55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska because our current retirement plan (Tier 4) sets our public safety employees up for failure in retirement.

- • 3 independent projections (from the DOA, the State CIO Bob Mitchell, and independent actuary) have shown that public safety employees are highly likely to run out of money in retirement
- • Most public safety employees in AK do not receive social security or SBS
- • They only receive a 5% match in a 401(A) account; which is less than a social security contribution would be anywhere in the private sector
- • This is the value that the state has placed on our first responders

Please consider helping my family, my coworkers, and myself out for enjoying a good retirement.

Respectfully,

Nathan Durbin  
907-982-9891

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:34 PM

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**From:** Eric Gallagher <[gallagher.eric4@gmail.com](mailto:gallagher.eric4@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.Vonimhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.Vonimhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB55

My name is Eric Gallagher, I am an Anchorage firefighter. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska because of the almost complete lack of ability that we have to recruit and retain quality employees. Every year our testing pool gets smaller, and those highly qualified employees that we do hire are often leaving the department for a job with better retirement.

HB55 is a very reasonable solution to our current problem. Myself and others I work with have no impression that HB55 somehow sets us up for life like previous tiers. We do however have the impression that it is something defined that can give us a chance to financially prepare for a life after service.

There has been a lot of work put into this problem and it appears that HB55 has done a great job of reducing risk to the state. I ask that you all strongly consider passing this bill out of your committee so that we can return Alaska to a place where public safety professionals chose to spend an entire career serving our communities.

Thanks for your time.

Eric Gallagher  
Eagle River, Ak

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:33 PM

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**From:** Allan Heineken <heiney33@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 12:41 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 55

To whom it may concern,  
My name is Allan Heineken, I am currently a driver/operator for the Fairbanks Fire Department. Although pending the outcome of this bill that may need to change. I have dedicated 6 years to The Fairbanks Fire Department, 8 years total as a firefighter in the state of Alaska. My parents both moved to Alaska in the 80s, and in the early 90s my father joined the local fire department. He currently is the fire chief of the North Pole Fire Department. My brother currently works for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Fire Department, and my cousin at the Ft Wainwright Fire Department. So you could say I was born and raised in the Fairbanks Fire Service. Sometimes I like to joke about how great it feels to provide ambulance service to the hospital where I was born. But unfortunately I may not always have that pleasure.

I am writing to my state representatives today to talk about House Bill 55. This bill would be a monumental leap forward in the public services for the state of Alaska, and even more so for the people of Fairbanks whom I personally serve. Currently there is a system with tier 4 retirement in which people feel that they cannot see a future in Alaska. Many of our members love the state and do not want to leave, but they feel they have to for the futures of themselves and their family. This not only causes vacancies and a constant hiring crisis, but now the citizens of the state of Alaska are receiving a less experienced workforce to provide an essential service.

Currently the Fairbanks Fire Departments average retention is well below 5 years. Firefighting and EMS is a craft that must be practiced and developed over the course of years. Expecting someone to be an exceptional firefighter within 5 years is like expecting someone to be an ACE pilot within 5 years. By the time these people are leaving, they're just getting to the point of being able to take on more advanced and/or teaching roles. This means there is a dwindling number of people in the local area who even have the experience to teach the next incoming firefighters. This leads to under trained individuals having to fill in the gaps, which then leads to the next generation of firefighters to be stunted in their knowledge. Creating an endless cycle of lower and lower performance outcomes. All of this at no fault of any individual, they are just filling in roles the best they can, it's the fault of a system that says that having employee longevity is not that important.

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As someone personally who would like to stay here it is very difficult. But my wife and I have been contemplating moving elsewhere. Unfortunately in this career field there are just much better options, which saddens us deeply. Once again another person who would like to see a future in this wonderful state, may not see that become a reality because of better opportunities for ourselves and our future children. Being raised in Alaska did so much for me, and I would love nothing better than that for my children.

Please think very hard about what you are considering when discussing this bill. It's more to the people of your state than just dollars and cents, it's the wellbeing of an entire state.

-Thank you,  
Dr Allan Heineken  
1270 Blackberry Dr  
Fairbanks, Ak 99712  
(907)750-5750

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: support of HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:26 PM

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**From:** Travis R. Kulp <TKulp@fairbanks.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 12:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** support of HB55

Travis Kulp  
344 Scenic Hills Ct  
Fairbanks AK 99712  
[tkulp@fairbanks.us](mailto:tkulp@fairbanks.us)

May 1, 2022

Support for HB55

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Travis Kulp, I am a Battalion Chief at Fairbanks Fire Department, serving the fire department for 27 years in all positions. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska because currently Alaska cannot compete with the Lower 48 when it comes to recruiting and retaining members.

As I write this, I am in my 168<sup>th</sup> hour (7 days) of continuous duty on shift with another 24 hours (at least) forecasted. That will be eight days or more without a break from the stress of managing emergency response crews and without the ability go home to see my wife and children. Five other members of the Fairbanks Fire Department were also forced to work today.

I do not want to die doing this job due to the state's inability to offer incentive for employees to work and stay in Alaska. Competitive retirement plans lead to longevity and HB55 can help Alaska recruit and retain Public Safety employees. We need help, and you can provide it by passing HB55.

Respectfully,  
Travis Kulp  
Battalion Chief, Fairbanks Fire Department



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May 1, 2022

Senator,

My name is Quinten Johnson, as a resident of Alaska, I'm urging you to support House Bill 55. I was born and raised in Alaska, I have been a Firefighter/E.M.T. in here for the last 11 years with 10 of those years serving in the Fairbanks area. I am also the third generation of my family working in public safety within Alaska. My Grandfather was among the first Alaska State Troopers, and my Father and Uncle both spent over 25 years on the Fire Department in Nome. Though growing up I had no doubts that I would spend my entire life and career here in Alaska, I do not think that I will be able to afford to do that with our current retirement plan, and I am actively applying at other fire department career opportunities around the nation, and expect to be living within the year.

As Alaska's Tier 2 and 3 employees are retiring, the generation that should be replacing them have began to move onto other states with better retirements. When I took Firefighter 1 in 2012 I had 24 other students in my class, and 5 others in my platoon, all five of us were raised in Alaska. I am the only person of my Firefighter 1 platoon still working in Alaska and there are less than 10 of my class left in Alaska, and I believe only 6 of us are still in emergency service. After firefighter 1 I continued pursuing a career in Fire and EMS while attending UAF to get my degree in Municipal Fire Control while working for Fairbanks area Fire Departments to gain experience. Of the people that I attended classes with and have worked with over the last 10 years, roughly half of them have already left Alaska to pursue public service careers in other states that offer better retirements. The current Tier IV defined contribution system is not a competitive or feasible retirement system for Firefighters, Paramedics or Police officers. I believe that HB55 will help stem the flow of the young enthusiastic firefighters from the state, as well as help us retain our more experienced Firefighters and Medics.

I am again urging you to support HB55 and help us retain our public safety employees, this will help us retain our skilled and experienced firefighters, medics and police officers allowing us to continue providing the communities in Alaska with the high standard of protection that they expect. With new members turning over and moving out of state roughly every two years departments are struggling to retain qualified members and our applicants pools are dropping drastically as most other states offer better retirement options.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,  
Quinten Johnson  
Firefighter/Paramedic, Fairbanks Fire Department.

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:16 PM

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**From:** Noreen Wescott <nbwescott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 11:48 AM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB 55

Chairman Stedman and Chairman Bishop

I am writing to you today to encourage you to hear and support HB 55. HB 55 would provide a reasonable retirement plan for those serving Alaska as police officers and firefighters. As the mother of two sons working at the Anchorage Fire Department and the wife of another AFD employee I understand what goes into a career in public safety. My two boys are constantly faced with decisions over lateral offers of employment outside the state of Alaska. The main factor is the difference in retirement benefits offered outside compared to Tier 4.

HB 55 is a reasonable solution. I hope you hear and support this very important piece of legislation.

Noreen Wescott

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:12 PM

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**From:** DuClos, Paul R. <[paul.duclos@anchorageak.gov](mailto:paul.duclos@anchorageak.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for HB55

My name is Paul DuClos IV, I am an Anchorage firefighter. I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska because AK can no longer compete with the lower 48 when trying to recruit public safety employees, we are at a clear disadvantage. As Alaskans, we only receive a 5% match in a 401(A) account; which is less than a social security contribution would be anywhere in the private sector. Public safety members face risk in their jobs every day, they measure it and deal with it appropriately; we ask the legislature to do the same.

Respectfully,

Paul R. DuClos IV  
Anchorage Firefighter  
907-632-7600

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:05 PM

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**From:** Nanette <[nanettebelk@hotmail.com](mailto:nanettebelk@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 11:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bert Stedman <[Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <[Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <[Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov)>; Sen. David Wilson <[Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Donny Olson <[Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <[Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support of HB 55

I am emailing you to encourage your strong support of HB 55 to expeditiously move it forward to the body and to the Governor. To retain a skilled and responsible workforce in any field, compensation and retirement benefits are essential elements. If one system doesn't fill the needs then another should be addressed. The State of Alaska has a variety to choose from so Public Safety should be a priority from any stand point. HB 55 appears to be an appealing, fair, equitable plan that would be successful in retaining vital public service members who respond to the people of Alaska. Please realize that our Public Safety responders are taking care of people on possibly one of the worst days of their lives so I personally want the most knowledgeable and skilled people on the team to be there for me and all of my fellow Alaskans.

Your consideration is appreciated and I hope we can accommodate a solution to retain a responsible and reliable Public Safety workforce.

Nanette K. Belk  
P.O. Box 771193  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:28:02 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cooper Hanson <coopermhanson5@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 11:01 AM  
To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Support for HB 55

I hope this email finds all of you having a wonderful day. My name is Cooper Hanson, and I am a firefighter at the Anchorage Fire Department. I am writing you to show support for HB 55 as it moves forward.

I am a lifelong Alaskan and want nothing more than to live out my career and retirement in our beautiful home state. As a member of the class of 22-01, I am filled with excitement to begin a long and productive career as a public servant in both EMS and Firefighting. It is no secret that we are losing tremendous and qualified people to departments with a better long term retirement system. If we wish to keep producing higher standard employees here at home, HB 55 will be tremendous step in the right direction. It is my hope that you will continue support for this bill, and keep raising the bar for care of not only the public, but for public servants as well.

Have a great day,  
Cooper Hanson

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:27:57 PM

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**From:** Harold Belk <EagleHack@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 10:38 AM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of HB 55

Gentleman,

I'm writing today to encourage you to support HB 55. The participation of certain peace officers and firefighters in the defined benefit and defined contribution plans of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska.

As you know the time and money necessary to recruit and train these individuals is extensive and expensive for local communities. It sometimes results in individuals seeking employment outside the state when a better benefit and retirement package is available to those individuals. Therefore the recruitment and training cycle is continuous. As someone who relies on their services in times of duress, I would feel more confident in the ability of the first responders to be compensated in a competitive benefit and salary range that will retain their employment for years into the future.

Please give considerable attention to the need for HB 55 and move on to the full Senate for consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Harold Belk  
PO Box 771193  
Eagle River. Alaska 99577

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of HB55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:27:54 PM

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**From:** Emily Pasternak <pasternakemily@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 9:36 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of HB55


Senator,

As a fire fighter family of the Anchorage Fire Department, I am writing in support of House Bill 55. We have personally considered moving out-of-state to find better retirement opportunities for our family in recent years and believe this bill will make staying in Alaska, as a fire fighter family, worth it. My husband is very passionate about his career and loves his job. The only reason we have not moved yet, like many families we know, is because of how much he loves what he does, the community he serves and the people he works alongside. This love of our home and work does not fill the gap for a livable retirement plan, however. This work is hard, physically taxing and unsustainable into advanced age. For these reasons, a robust and defined retirement plan for those exempt from Social Security benefits is a must.

I ask that you please keep our family in mind when you consider your support of HB55.

Thank you,  
Emily Pasternak  
Wife of a Firefighter and EMT2, Mother of 2 & Small Business Owner

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 Emily Pasternak  
Cell: 1(920)912-5060

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:27:44 PM

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**From:** Charles Potter <charleslewispotter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 7:30 AM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for HB 55

May 1, 2022

Dear Senators,

My name is Charles Potter and I am a life long Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage. In 2011, I joined the Anchorage Fire Department to support our community as a firefighter. As a current Tier IV member, I'm writing you today in support of House Bill (HB) 55 and why I feel that it's important to take action on this issue and continue moving it through the legislative process. The negative impact of our state's current retirement system is real and can be seen on our front lines. I personally know 5 firefighters who have left the Anchorage Fire Department in just the last 2 years to pursue better benefits packages with out of state departments.

Nearly half of our State's public safety employees fall under the current Tier IV retirement system. This system does not provide an adequate or competitive retirement for our State's firefighters, police officers and Troopers which has resulted in lowered recruitment, lowered retention of trained and experienced employees, and subsequently, challenges with adequate staffing throughout all of our public safety sectors.

The current retirement system and subsequent low retention is financially burdensome. The cost of training a new public safety employee is approximately \$190,000. Current trends show that newer Tier IV employees are leaving the state after an average of 5 years of service in search of a more competitive retirement system. With each loss, Alaska loses its trained employees to other states and must start over with a new recruitment.

This cyclical epidemic that has begun to plague the public safety sector will only continue if



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something isn't done to address the need for a change to a defined benefit system. HB 55 is a practical solution to this growing problem that is well thought out and crafted after the most successful plans in the country that utilizes safeguard mechanisms to prevent unfunded liability from occurring. I encourage your support on this issue.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter.

Sincerely,

Charles Potter  
Anchorage Fire Department

Station 3, B-Shift

[charleslewispotter@gmail.com](mailto:charleslewispotter@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 55  
**Date:** Sunday, May 08, 2022 12:27:38 PM

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**From:** Jennifer Skaggs <jenni.skaggs46@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 7:29 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 55

My name is Jennifer Skaggs, I am an Anchorage Police Department employee. I have been with APD since 09/12/2005.

I am writing in support of HB55. This legislation is critical for Public Safety in Alaska because without a retirement plan for some current and future employees, Alaska will lose its investment within itself. We invest untold amounts of money in new employees, who will take what they have learned and been certified in, and go to a Department that values long term employees and experience retention, by having a retirement plan worth working toward.

Public safety members face risk in their jobs every day, they measure it and deal with it appropriately; we ask the legislature to do the same.

Thank you for your time on this matter and your service to our community.

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Jennifer Skaggs  
907-351-7346

“When Tyranny Becomes Law, Rebellion Becomes Duty”  
- Thomas Jefferson