

HB

248

Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Subcommittee Chair
Environmental Conservation
Courts



During Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3424
Fax (907) 465-3793

In Ketchikan:
50 Front Street, Suite 203
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 247-4672
Fax (907) 225-7157

Representative William K. Williams

January 27, 2002

Representative John Coghill
Chairman, House State Affairs Committee
Room 102A, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 248

Dear Representative Coghill:

Enclosed is a sponsor statement and letters of support for HB 248. Please schedule this bill for a hearing at the 8:00 a.m. meeting of the House State Affairs Committee on February 7, 2002. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative Bill Williams

Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Subcommittee Chair
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Courts



Representative William K. Williams

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Sponsor Statement For HB 248

20 Year Retirement Provision for Juvenile Officer

Presently, Alaska law (AS 39.35.370(a)(2)) states that peace officers and firefighters are entitled to normal retirement benefit after 20 years of service. HB 248 adds "juvenile officers" to AS 39.35.370(a)(2) as employees eligible to participate in the 20 year retirement system. The term "juvenile officer" is defined to mean a "youth counselor, unit leader, or superintendent in a juvenile detention or juvenile correctional facility". Generally speaking, these "juvenile officers" are the employees who work with juveniles *inside* a correctional facility. They have the same or very similar training, and authority to restrain and arrest individuals as other peace officers.

Juveniles who are in a correctional facility are there for reasons such as commission of a serious crime, mental health problems, substance abuse problems, or a combination of all of these issues. Such juveniles demand the highest level of care and rehabilitation efforts, while at the same time, presenting the highest level of risk to juvenile officers.

Presently, probation officers and other employees working with juveniles *outside* a correctional facility qualify for a 20 year retirement. As presently written, the statutes create an uneven situation where a probation officer working outside a correctional facility could arrest and deliver a juvenile to a correctional facility. The officer outside the facility would be entitled to a 20 year retirement while the officers inside the facility are not. Adult correctional officers also qualify for a 20 year retirement.

Providing a 20 year retirement system for juvenile officers is fair since these employees perform the same or very similar work duties as other employees charged with preserving public safety. It also creates an incentive for existing juvenile officers to remain in their positions and will attract qualified applicants for new positions.

Support for HB 248

A synopsis of the hazards encountered by employees of juvenile detention and correctional institutions.

Following are a few examples from facilities around the state that are representative of the situations that youth counselors must be prepared to encounter and respond to on a daily basis.

- A small bomb was detonated outside of a McLaughlin Youth Center Detention window in an attempt to break out an incarcerated resident.
- A young man detained at the Bethel Youth Facility assaulted a detention youth counselor, stabbing him in the back with a pencil, fracturing his jaw and resulting in a partial hearing loss.
- Using a strip of cloth torn from a towel, a detained youth at the McLaughlin Youth Center attacked a youth counselor by wrapping the fabric around her neck and strangling her. He forced her into his cell and down on to his bed, and tried to get her keys away from her. The attack was interrupted and likely serious injury averted when another youth counselor saw what was happening and intervened.
- Fairbanks community youth attempted to gain entry into the Fairbanks Youth Facility with a blow torch to free a youth who was being held in that facility.
- As a consequence of a drive-by shooting on the campus of the McLaughlin Youth Center, a wall was erected to obstruct the view from Providence Drive.
- Two Nome Youth Facility staff had to physically restrain a youth who was intoxicated, combative, suicidal, and seven months pregnant.
- While escorting a youth from the McLaughlin Youth Center, a youth counselor was ambushed and attacked by a relative of the youth, armed with mace and a samurai sword, who then sprayed the youth counselor with mace and assisted the youth in escaping from custody.
- While physically restraining an out-of-control youth at the Bethel Youth Facility, the youth defecated in her pants, thus exposing the staff members involved to any number of potential infectious agents.
- A 300 pound male resident detained at Johnson Youth Center assaulted staff in an attempt to obtain keys and escape from the facility. The assault resulted in emergency room care, facial contusions, and dental injury.
- During a secure transport of two detained juveniles from the Court House in Palmer, a Mat-Su Youth Facility youth counselor was attacked, choked, and overpowered by the youths, who eventually escaped.
- During the restraint of an out of control 220 pound resident, two McLaughlin Youth Center staff were assaulted. The staff were kicked in the stomach, struck in the head and face, and spit upon by the youth. This resident had Hepatitis C.

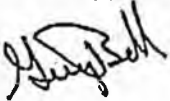
During the course of their duties, youth counselors must intervene in fights between residents, they face the risk of being assaulted themselves, and they must endure threats to their well-being and that of their families. Facility staff have experienced the trauma of a resident death by suicide or serious injury by suicide attempt. Youth Counselors routinely transport youth in the community and from one city to another, exposing themselves and the residents to all the potential risks that presents. The youth in our facilities are at high risk for a variety of infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, and TB, and facility staff face exposure to blood, saliva, and other body fluids. Also significant, but less easily defined, is the unpredictable nature of these potential assaults and exposures. Facility staff must be constantly vigilant to this impulsive and potentially dangerous population to ensure the safety of all residents, themselves and other staff, and the community.

Support for HB 248, Peace Officer/20-Year Retirement for Employees of Juvenile Detention and Correctional Institutions

- An inequity exists within the Public Employees Retirement System pertaining to employees of juvenile correctional facilities. Currently adult correctional officers, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute, Youth Counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The Alaska Statutes address the status of youth counselors as peace officers in AS 47.12.270 which reads, in part, **“Youth Counselors have the powers of a peace officer with respect to the service of process, the making of arrests of minors who violate state or municipal law, and the execution of orders of the court relating to juveniles, and shall assist and advise the courts in the furtherance of the welfare and control of minors under the court’s jurisdiction.”**
- In an October, 1998 decision (Arthur Earl WILSON v. State of Alaska, No. A-6396), the Court of Appeals of Alaska addressed the issue of youth counselors as correctional officers in the context of applicability of presumptive sentencing. Wilson attempted escape from McLaughlin Youth Center by strangling a youth counselor, forcing her into a cell, and attempting to gain control of her keys. The assault and escape attempt were interrupted by another youth counselor. The superior court ruled that presumptive sentencing applied because the assault was **“directed at a correctional officer who was engaged in the performance of her duties”**. Wilson challenged this ruling, among others, in his appeal. The State argued that, for purposes of Title 11, McLaughlin is a **“correctional facility”** and it is thus logical to classify the people who supervise McLaughlin inmates as **“correctional officers”**. In affirming the presumptive sentence under the former AS 12.55.125(d)(3), the Court of Appeals found statutory support for the State’s argument in AS 47.12.270, and stated that youth counselors are **“...expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions”**. Their decision further states that youth counselors **“...are duty-bound to expose themselves to potential assault and duty-bound not to turn away when assault actually occurs. Thus, they are members of the same class of public employees that the legislature wished to protect and vindicate when the legislature enacted former AS 12.55.125(d)(3).”**
- Youth Counselors are responsible for the security, safety, and rehabilitation of a population distinguished by its impulsiveness. They provide life saving first aid in emergency situations such as suicide attempts and self harm behavior by incarcerated youth. Staff are assaulted, they must intervene in physical altercations between residents, they must physically control residents who are attempting to harm themselves or others, and they must protect the public by ensuring that facilities are secure and preventing escapes.
- In 1991, SB 32, which addressed this ongoing inequity in the retirement system, was introduced. It passed the House and the Senate, and was subsequently vetoed by then Governor Hickel. Records from the committee hearings and testimony at that time indicate the consideration of a variety of factors in passing this legislation, including working conditions substantially similar to those in adult correctional facilities, the physical risks faced by employees of juvenile correctional facilities, public safety concerns, the inevitable loss of physical and emotional stamina which occurs with age, and youth counselors as peace officers in the Alaska Statutes.

MEMORANDUM**STATE OF ALASKA**

TO: Robert Buttane
Legislative & Administrative Liason
Division of Juvenile Justice
Department of Health and Social Services
DATE: March 12, 2001
TELEPHONE: 465-4460

FROM: Guy Bell 
Director
Division of Retirement and Benefits
Department of Administration
SUBJECT: Health and Social Service
Employee Reclassification
to Peace Officer Coverage

You requested a breakdown of the cost associated with reclassifying certain employees within the Department of Health and Social Services from the 30 year retirement to the 20 year retirement plan between the Division of Family and Youth Services and the Division of Juvenile Justice.

In calculating the cost allocation, it became apparent that there is one job classification that is common to both divisions. Should the Department determine that employees in only one division would be reclassified, and if the employees in the Social Service Associate I, II and III positions are included in that reclassification, all Social Service Associates in both divisions will be reclassified.

An employer cannot reclassify individual positions. They must include everyone within a particular job classification. The full cost for the Social Service Associates appears under both divisions for this reason.

You also requested the figures to amortize the cost of the reclassification over a 25 year period. The cost would be \$1.2 million per year to amortize the \$13.2 million. We would not support annual appropriations to pay for this; instead the changes should be incorporated in the rate setting process.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Cost of reclassifying employees from "Others" to Policy/Fire Allocation for each job class

DIVISION OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

	Change In PV of Fully Projected Benefits	Cost as a Percentage of State ER 101 Pay
Social Service Associate I	\$ 33,000.00	0.00%
Social Service Associate II	\$ 64,000.00	0.00%
Social Service Associate III	\$ 521,000.00	0.01%
Social Worker I	\$ 316,000.00	0.01%
Social Worker II	\$ 324,000.00	0.01%
Social Worker III	\$ 2,948,000.00	0.06%
Social Worker IV	\$ 1,187,000.00	0.02%
Social Worker V	\$ 225,000.00	0.00%
Community Care Licensing Specialist I	\$ 268,000.00	0.01%
Total:	\$ 5,886,000.00	0.12%

	Change In PV of Fully Projected Benefits	Cost as a Percentage of State ER 101 Pay
Associate Coordinator (Estimate)	\$ 33,000.00	0.00%
Social Service Associate I	\$ 33,000.00	0.00%
Social Service Associate II	\$ 64,000.00	0.00%
Social Service Associate III	\$ 521,000.00	0.01%
Youth Facility Nurses II	\$ 89,000.00	0.00%
Youth Facility Nurses III	\$ 36,000.00	0.00%
Youth Counselor I	\$ 645,000.00	0.01%
Youth Counselor II	\$ 3,054,000.00	0.06%
Youth Counselor III	\$ 2,049,000.00	0.04%
Unit Leader	\$ 966,000.00	0.02%
Youth Facility Superintendent I	\$ 385,000.00	0.01%
Youth Facility Superintendent II	\$ 143,000.00	0.00%
Total:	\$ 8,018,000.00	0.15%

7,242,000
÷ 12
603,500

612
\$ 7,406,000.00
125
7,281,000.00

Estimated Costs for Sample Health and Social Services Employees to Convert to a 20 Year Retirement

Job Title	Service Years	Salaries	"A" Contributions Paid	Additional Contributions for "P"	Total Due
<i>Community Care Lic Spec I</i>	17.49	\$48,036.00	\$3,242.43	\$360.27	
		\$47,486.33	\$3,205.33	\$356.15	
		\$46,542.51	\$3,141.62	\$349.07	
		\$44,976.00	\$3,035.88	\$337.32	
		\$44,976.00	\$3,035.88	\$337.32	
		\$43,807.50	\$2,957.01	\$328.56	
		\$43,804.78	\$2,956.82	\$328.54	
		\$40,545.98	\$2,736.85	\$304.09	
		\$38,787.66	\$2,618.84	\$290.98	
		\$34,849.00	\$2,352.31	\$261.37	
		\$34,740.00	\$2,344.95	\$260.55	
		\$33,648.00	\$2,271.24	\$252.36	
		\$32,288.90	\$2,179.50	\$242.17	
		\$9,429.34	\$636.48	\$70.72	
		\$33,708.00	\$2,275.29	\$252.81	
\$32,501.20	\$2,193.83	\$243.76			
\$29,941.65	\$2,021.06	\$224.56			
\$14,401.00	\$972.07	\$108.01	<u>\$4,908.60</u>		
<i>Social Worker I</i>	2.293	\$26,175.41	\$1,766.84	\$196.32	
		\$15,021.77	\$1,013.97	\$112.66	<u>\$112.66</u>
<i>Social Worker II</i>	8.844	\$48,294.14	\$3,259.85	\$362.21	
		\$42,114.09	\$2,842.70	\$315.86	
		\$42,782.49	\$2,887.82	\$320.87	
		\$46,482.40	\$3,137.56	\$348.62	
		\$47,202.41	\$3,186.16	\$354.02	
		\$47,025.13	\$3,174.20	\$352.69	
		\$44,416.10	\$2,898.09	\$333.12	
		\$37,236.44	\$2,513.46	\$279.27	
		\$5,409.51	\$432.64	\$48.07	<u>\$2,714.72</u>
<i>Social Worker III</i>	6.159	\$48,654.50	\$3,284.18	\$364.91	
		\$47,080.46	\$3,176.58	\$352.95	
		\$45,690.47	\$3,084.11	\$342.68	
		\$46,010.28	\$3,105.69	\$345.08	
		\$5,301.18	\$357.83	\$39.76	
		\$6,082.29	\$410.55	\$45.62	
		\$9,167.13	\$618.78	\$68.75	
		\$2,875.09	\$194.07	\$21.56	<u>\$1,581.31</u>
<i>Social Worker IV</i>	3.17	\$36,853.04	\$2,487.58	\$276.40	
		\$17,533.27	\$1,183.50	\$131.50	
		\$21,841.17	\$1,474.28	\$163.81	
		\$9,766.01	\$659.21	\$73.25	
		\$2,655.85	\$179.27	\$19.92	<u>\$664.87</u>
<i>Social Worker V</i>	11.742	\$52,110.00	\$3,517.43	\$390.83	
		\$51,336.00	\$3,465.18	\$385.02	
		\$50,649.00	\$3,418.81	\$379.87	
		\$48,458.00	\$3,270.92	\$363.44	
		\$46,583.00	\$3,144.35	\$349.37	
		\$45,531.00	\$3,073.34	\$341.48	

		\$44,300.44	\$2,990.28	\$332.25	
		\$40,522.80	\$2,735.29	\$303.92	
		\$36,577.38	\$2,468.97	\$274.33	
		\$32,526.00	\$2,195.51	\$243.95	
		\$2,947.88	\$198.88	\$22.11	
		\$10,346.13	\$698.36	\$77.60	
		\$5,385.10	\$363.49	\$40.39	<u>\$3,504.55</u>
Social Services Assoc III	10.449	\$25,095.14	\$1,693.92	\$188.21	
		\$24,179.49	\$1,832.12	\$181.35	
		\$21,014.60	\$1,418.49	\$157.61	
		\$15,416.25	\$1,040.60	\$115.62	
		\$14,110.97	\$952.49	\$105.83	
		\$15,799.77	\$1,066.48	\$118.50	
		\$16,887.43	\$1,139.90	\$126.66	
		\$922.93	\$62.30	\$6.92	<u>\$1,000.70</u>
Nurse II	7.972	\$30,566.13	\$2,063.21	\$229.25	
		\$31,733.87	\$2,142.04	\$238.00	
		\$30,415.41	\$2,053.04	\$228.12	
		\$25,137.68	\$1,696.79	\$188.53	
		\$25,867.40	\$1,745.37	\$193.93	
		\$24,871.57	\$1,678.83	\$186.54	
		\$23,087.97	\$1,559.11	\$173.23	
		\$20,805.40	\$1,390.86	\$154.54	
		\$21,646.66	\$1,454.40	\$161.60	
		\$18,111.20	\$1,222.51	\$135.83	
		\$4,781.76	\$322.77	\$35.88	<u>\$1,925.44</u>
Youth Center Supt I	22.972	\$47,630.88	\$3,215.08	\$357.23	
		\$64,773.76	\$4,372.23	\$485.80	
		\$63,720.58	\$4,301.14	\$477.90	
		\$62,990.85	\$4,251.88	\$472.43	
		\$63,459.04	\$4,283.49	\$475.94	
		\$62,123.67	\$4,193.35	\$465.93	
		\$61,575.18	\$4,156.32	\$461.81	
		\$58,486.41	\$3,947.83	\$438.65	
		\$55,736.07	\$3,762.18	\$418.02	
		\$49,351.12	\$3,331.20	\$370.13	
		\$47,408.54	\$3,199.94	\$355.55	
		\$46,907.97	\$3,166.29	\$351.81	
		\$44,450.98	\$3,000.44	\$333.38	
		\$43,516.61	\$2,937.37	\$326.37	
		\$34,720.50	\$2,343.63	\$280.40	
		\$40,656.01	\$2,744.28	\$304.92	
		\$38,690.59	\$2,604.86	\$289.43	
		\$35,116.50	\$2,370.36	\$263.37	
		\$28,870.78	\$1,948.78	\$216.53	
		\$24,902.19	\$1,680.90	\$186.77	
		\$22,176.98	\$1,486.95	\$166.33	
		\$17,465.68	\$1,178.93	\$130.99	<u>\$7,609.72</u>

1-1302

Eric Kuntz
POB 85231
FBKS, AK.
99708

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK.
99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams-

Thank you very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 28. I have worked for the Div. of Juvenile Justice for 13 years as a youth counselor and realize that 20 year retirement is very important. We are getting tougher and more delinquents and it is a stressful job. I would like to achieve parity with the Correctional Officers.

Thanks Again,
Eric Kuntz

The Honorable Bill Williams
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

January 12, 2002

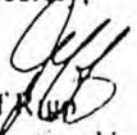
Dear Rep. Williams,

Even though I am not in your district, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your sponsorship of **House Bill 248**, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System

As a long-term employee who's has been a part of the juvenile justice system for the past 23 years, the passage of this legislation would finally recognize the group of forgotten workers that run our juvenile correctional institutions. **HB 248** also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice. The other employees within DJJ, such as Juvenile Probation Officers, have been in the 20year peace officer retirement since about 1990.

Again, thank you for your recognition and support of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan!

Sincerely,


Jeff Kump
Detention Unit Leader,
Fairbanks Youth Facility

Home address:
989 Willow Grouse Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99712.

January 9, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

John Dehner
1238 A Grenae Road
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Dear Rep. Williams,

Thank you very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Youth Counselor and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) to show my support for HB 248.

I have worked for ten years in this job class and know full well that entry into a 20-year retirement plan, like most others in my division, will have a profound effect on employee morale and longevity across the state. This includes the new Youth Counselors stationed at the new Ketchikan Youth Facility, which I understand is opening soon.

Please let me know what I can do through AJCOA to help support the passage of HB 248.

Sincerely,



John Dehner

January 12, 2002

Dear Representative Williams

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth Counselor I in Fairbanks, Alaska and know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB248. With your leadership in the ~~House~~ House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you.

again for your support of the Youth Counselor
Aerie employees in our youth facilities across
the state.

I look forward to seeing the results of this
bill and my continued involvement in changing
the lives of our youth.

Sincerely,

Wendy Denise Mitchell

691 8th Ave

Fairbanks, AK 99701

denise@pillarofhope.org

(907) 452-0584

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

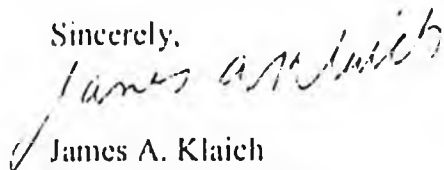
James Klaich
PO Box 74205
Fairbanks, AK 99701
e-mail address: jklaich@gci.net

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is James Klaich and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II and Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor for the past 13 years. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,



James A. Klaich
Youth Counselor II
Fairbanks Youth Facility

January 13, 2002

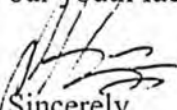
Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Leigh H. Rovzar III
1132 Propwash Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II, and realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work I perform with serious Juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers who are currently in the 20-Year system.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan!


Sincerely,

Leigh H. Rovzar III

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Sam Green
602 East Bentley Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Rep. Williams,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth Counselor III in Fairbanks, Alaska and know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees in our youth facilities across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Green Jr.".

1-9-02

Representative Williams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series of employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth Counselor III in Fairbanks, Alaska and have been employed here for over nine years. Working with difficult youth is a very demanding job and requires our staff to be extremely professional in completing their duties. A 20 year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association which has been formed to rally support for HB 248.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely
Tim Oney
Youth Counselor III

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Shawn Lundgren
661 Goldmine Trail
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

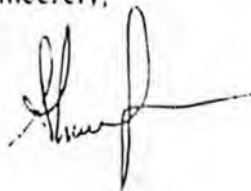
Dear Rep. Williams,

Thank you very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Youth Counselor III, and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) to show my support for HB 248.

I have worked for 10 years in this job class and know full well that entry into a 20-year retirement plan, like most others in my division, will have a profound effect on employee morale and longevity across the state. This includes the new Youth Counselors stationed at the new Ketchikan Youth Facility, which I understand is opening soon.

Please let me know what I can do through AJCOA to help support the passage of HB 248.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Lundgren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

January 07, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Rayman E. Stith
3596 Lakeview Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II, and realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work I perform with serious Juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers who are currently in the 20-Year system.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan!

Sincerely,
Rayman E. Stith

January 7, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801

975 Willow Grove Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Dear Rep. Williams,

Thank you for sponsoring HB 248 which will place youth counselors into the Peace Officer Retirement System.

I have worked as a youth counselor supervisor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility for 20 years now and know first hand the nature of the work performed in our facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees.

I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Assoc (AJCOA) which has been formed to mostly support HB 248.

Again, thanks for your support. I also look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility as another member of the Division of Juvenile Justice's effort to better our delinquent youth.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Konefal

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

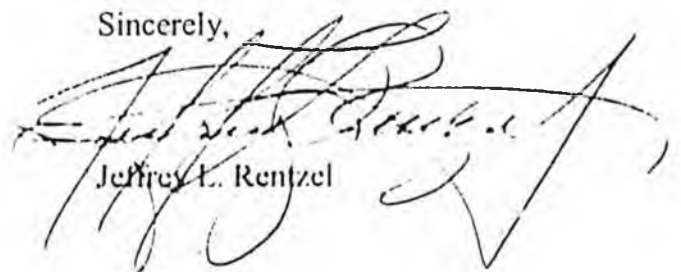
Jeffrey L. Rentzel
P.O. Box 74614
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is Jeffrey L. Rentzel and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor III. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Rentzel

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Lisa Drew, Youth Counselor
4820 Villanova Dr.
Fbks. AK 99709

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship & support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors in the Peace Officers Retirement System. I'm employed at the Fbks. Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor & realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of work I do with serious juvenile (adult sized) offenders. HB 248 also brings a more balanced fairness between Youth Counselors & the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation officers who are currently in the 20 year system.

Thank you again for recognizing Youth Counselors & the work we do in our facilities across the state, and soon in your home community of Ketchikan.

Sincerely,
Lisa Drew

January 09, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

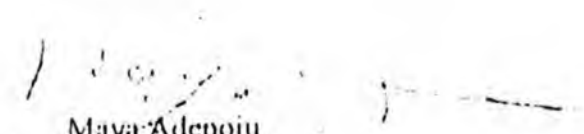
Maya Adepoju
1120 22nd Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is Maya Adepoju and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,



Maya Adepoju

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Doug Bergener
1745 Donald Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II, and realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work I perform with serious juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers who are currently in the 20-year system.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Bergener", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Curtis Harris
204 Steelhead Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is Curtis Harris and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor I. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,

Curtis Harris

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

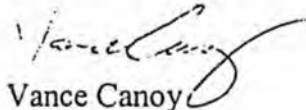
Vance Canoy/ Youth Counselor
PO Box 56660
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to thank you for your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, which places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officers Retirement System. I am a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. The House Bill 248 will bring fairness and recognition that Youth Counselors deserve.

Thanks again for your interest and appreciation for the type of services Youth Counselors provide to Alaskan communities.

Sincerely,



Vance Canoy
Youth Counselor

01-12-02

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Kevin J. Milles
1220 Park Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907)479-0628

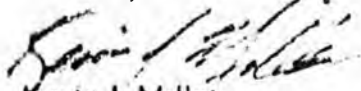
Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II for the past 10 years and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) to show my support for HB 248. I realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work I perform with serious juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers and the Administrative Staff (including receptionists) who are currently in the 20-year system.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan!

Please let me know what I can do through AJCOA to help support the passage of HB 248.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Milles
Youth Counselor II
Fairbanks Youth Facility
10 year State Employee

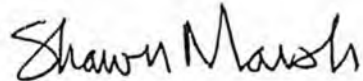
January 18, 2002

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Rep. Williams,

Thank you for your sponsorship of HB 248. Although I am no longer in a job class that is impacted by bill, I have worked for nearly a decade in the youth corrections system in Alaska and believe 20-year retirement for institutional staff is essential. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawn Marsh".

Shawn Marsh, M.Ed., NCC
Mental Health Clinician
Division of Juvenile Justice

Albert R. Phelan
Youth Counselor, MSYF
HC 01 Box 6167
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Williams,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248. This bill places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System. Youth Counselors are Peace Officers as provided for in the Alaska State Statues and are the only Peace Officers in the State of Alaska that do not have a 20 year retirement provided for them.

I work as a Youth Counselor Supervisor at the Mat Su Youth Facility in Palmer, Alaska. Pervious to that I worked at the McLaughlin Youth Center in Anchorage. I know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities. A 20 year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees and your recognition of the work they do in the youth facilities across the state.

Sincerely,

 1-21-02

Albert R. Phelan
Youth Counselor III Supervisor

1/21/02

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

I would like to take a brief moment of your time to extend my gratitude for your sponsorship of House Bill 248, which places the Youth Counselor employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I am currently a teacher with the Mat-Su School District but prior to becoming a teacher I worked as a Youth Counselor, Correctional Officer and Probation Officer in Oregon. Because of my past work experience, I can attest to the need for the passage of this bill.

The services performed by Youth Counselors in the State of Alaska are demanding by nature; the result is 'burnout' and a loss of many good employees that seek employment in fields with less stress, responsibility and danger. Passage of House Bill 248 is a necessity for keeping DJJ Youth Counselors in their chosen profession.

Again, I extend my gratitude for your work in helping to end the disparity, which has existed in retirement for Youth Counselors.

Respectfully,



Frederic Brown
Teacher
MSBSD
Palmer, AK 99645

Bob Fedoroff
10814 Steeple Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-694-3296

January 19, 2002

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

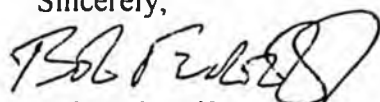
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Superintendent in Anchorage and, having worked in a facility for 29 years, I know first hand the nature of the work performed in the Division's facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way toward retaining good employees and improving staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to develop support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees in our youth facilities across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Bob Fedoroff

Albert R. Phelan
Youth Counselor, MSYF
HC 01 Box 6167
Palmer, AK 99645

1-21-02

Dear Rep. Coghill,

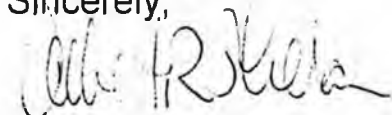
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Mat Su Youth Facility in Palmer, Alaska. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Youth Counselors are Peace Officers as provided for in the Alaska State Statutes and are the only Peace Officers in the State of Alaska that do not currently have a 20 year retirement provided for them.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with a 20 year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990's. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20 year retirement for Youth Counselors), which had passed both the House and the Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and a 20 year retirement is overdue for Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Albert R. Phelan

01/19/02

REP. JOHN COGHILL
STATE CAPITOL ROOM #102
JUNEAU, AK. 99801-1182

MARLON K. CONKLEN
1519 MORRIS AVENUE
NORTH POLE A.K. 99705

DEAR REP. COGHILL,

MY NAME IS MARLON K. CONKLEN AND I LIVE IN YOUR DISTRICT. I ALSO WORK FOR THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (DJJ) AS A YOUTH COUNSELOR AT THE FAIRBANKS YOUTH FACILITY. I JOINED THE ALASKA JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (AJCOA) RECENTLY TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF THE YOUTH COUNSELOR 20-YEAR RETIREMENT LEGISLATION, HB 248.

SIR YOU REALLY NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE TYPE OF YOUTH'S WE HAD TO WORK WITH. A 20-YEAR RETIREMENT PACKAGE IS DESERVE HERE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OF EMPLOYEES. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT MOST ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES IN DJJ ARE IN THE PEACE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM ALREADY AND HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

I KNOW, AS THE CHAIR, YOU CAN MAKE HB 248 MOVE TO A HEARING IN THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HB 248 WILL HAVE SUPPORT IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE WHEN THEY SEE IT.

PLEASE MAKE HB 248 MOVE FOR THE YOUTH COUNSELORS AS A SIGN OF GROUP SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING LONG & HARD TOWARD FAIRNESS & EQUITY.

SINCERELY,
MARLON K. CONKLEN
MC

January 20, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

John R. Dehner
1248-A Grenac Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



John R. Dehner

January 20, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Maya Adepoju
P.O. Box 74768
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Rep. Coghill,

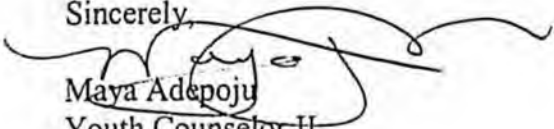
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Maya Adepoju
Youth Counselor II

January 19, 2002

975 Willow Grove Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Honorable John Coghill
House of Representatives
State Capitol #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sir,

I am a 25 year resident of Fairbanks. My four children were born and raised in Fairbanks.

I work as a youth counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility and I, along with other counselors statewide are working to get HB278 passed. This Bill is in your committee and I urge you to give it a hearing. Youth counselors have had similar Bills before the legislature every session for ten years now. Once, it even got to the governor's desk! We feel it has obvious merit for reasons I'd be happy to enumerate if you so choose.

For now, please give this Bill the chance it deserves.

If there is anything I can do to help support you in this endeavor, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Konefal

Date 01/20/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jeffrey L. Rentzel
P. O. Box 74614
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

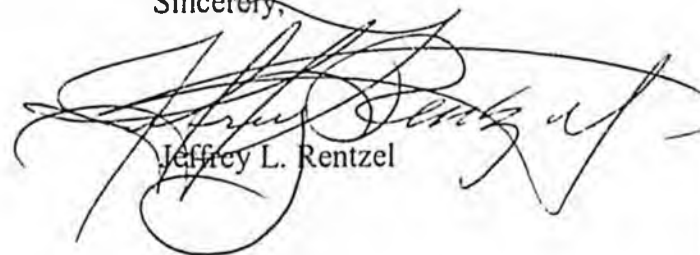
Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Jeffrey L. Rentzel and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Rentzel

P.O. Box 70829
Fairbanks AK 99707-0829

January 19, 2002

Representative John Coghill
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

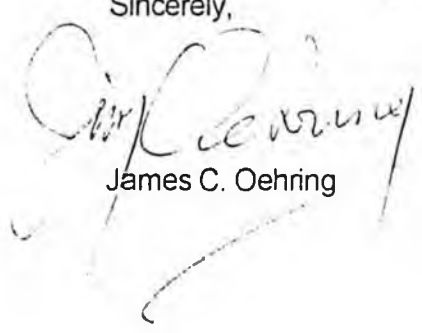
Dear John:

Representative Jim Whitaker has introduced HB296, relating to mergers and consolidations of municipalities, which addresses and seeks to correct two concerns I have had regarding the process. I hope you support this bill in the House.

On another issue, I wonder why longevity bonuses cannot be direct-deposited to claimants' bank accounts. I could be asked this question of the cognizant administrative department and was told that they would still have to send out the monthly questionnaire about actually being present in Alaska, but so what? They do that now. Direct-depositing these payments would at least simplify reconciliation of the state's bank accounts.

I would appreciate your attention to these matters. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



James C. Oehring

Jan. 20, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Lisa Drew
4820 Villanova Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill,

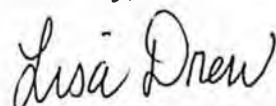
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Drew".

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jose M. Gutierrez III
1425 Noble St.
Fairbanks, AK. 99701

Dear Rep. Coghill,

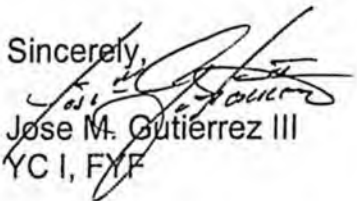
My name is, Jose , and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor I, in the Fairbanks Youth Facility. I recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more that any other group of employee because of the inequality that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for quite awhile.

I know that, as the Chair, you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equality.

Sincerely,



Jose M. Gutierrez III
YC I, FYF

1/25/02

Rep. John Corhill
State Capitol Room # 102
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182

Vance Conroy
3186 - Markshoal Lane
North Pole, Ak 99705

Dear Rep. Corhill,

My name is Vance Conroy. I am a member of the
ATCOA, which supports HB 248. The bill supports
a 20 year retirement for Youth Counselors. Youth Counselors
strongly support HB 248, and the scheduling so the
legislation can be voted on and moved to its next
review by House Finance.

ATCOA has a more than 10 year history fighting for fairness
with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers
Retirement System. The passage of HB 248 is necessary,
and I'm sure the House supports the need for fairness.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your
committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Vance Conroy
VCI

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

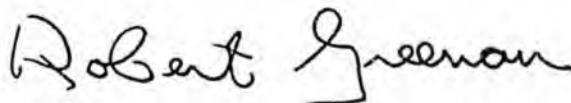
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Greenan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Greenan

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Thomas W. Peria
P.O. Box 2091
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Thomas Peria and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor in the Mat-Su Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

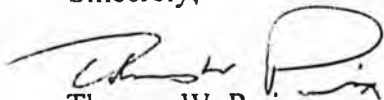
Before becoming a Youth Counselor I served as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer for 9 years. Due to the often unpredictable nature of Juvenile Offenders during the two years I have worked as a Youth Counselor I have seen as many violent acts if not more than when I served as Federal Law Enforcement Officer. The job of a Youth Counselor is more stressful than my prior duties and every bit as dangerous although in different ways and that position offered a 20 year retirement.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Peria

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

January 23, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capital Room # 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
Andrea Freihardt
HC-34 Box 2673
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Coghill,

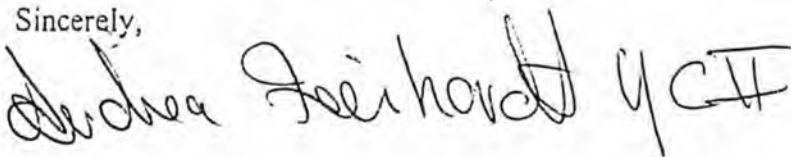
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB-248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB-32 (20 year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a Peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Freihardt YCTH". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Andrea Freihardt

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Ed White
Box 1410
Palmer Alaska 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

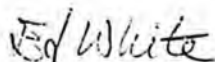
As a juvenile correctional officer, I have seen many of my fellow officers, hurt maliciously by juvenile offenders. They have fashioned weapons out of materials like combs and toothbrushes. I also have been physically assaulted. Every day I work with police, probation officers, parents, and attorneys. I protect the public.

My name is Ed White and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ed White

January 23, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capital Room # 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
Aaron Tanner
1161 Dellwood Apt B
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB-248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB-32 (20 year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a Peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Tanner".

Aaron Tanner

1/21/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 998-1-1182

Youth Counselor
Kelli Mahoney
925 Lone Cub Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officer's Association. I am also a new hire at the Mat Su Youth Facility. I hope to continue to serve youth a long time in this position.

My Association strongly supports the passage of HB 248 that includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers' Retirement System. I believe that achieving parity for benefits for employees of the corrections system will help retain qualified counselors. The job of a youth counselor requires expertise and specialized knowledge.

As the Chair of the House State Affairs Committee, I believe you will be sorting through prospective legislation regarding the 20-year retirement for over-looked state employees. A.JCOA has supported the effort to achieve parity for over ten years. That's half the time it would take to retire! The other peace officers/corrections officers work hard too, and deserve their benefits. We are just asking for parity.

Please work to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee. Help Youth Counselors, those who are at the front line of rehabilitation, and restorative justice. Help the state employees who deal with violent child criminals- youth who may have four counts of theft and assault on record...yet cry in their cells after waiting in vain for a phone call from home. Our jobs are complicated and undervalued at present. You can help us change this condition so that the kids in detention can be assured of the best care they can get.

Thank you for considering my position on HB 248.

Sincerely, Kelli Mahoney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Mahoney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Jan. 27, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

DeeJana Engle
1045 South Cobb Street
Palmer, AK 99645-6917

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is DeeJana Engle and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor in the Mat-Su Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeeJana Engle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

January 18, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jeff Burger
1951 Eastridge Dr.
Anchorage AK. 99501

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Burger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska, Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 26, 2002

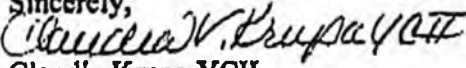
Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Claudia Krupa
7641 Old Harbor Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the McLaughlin Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II, and realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work I perform with serious juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers who are currently in the 20-year system.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan.

Sincerely,

Claudia Krupa YCII

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

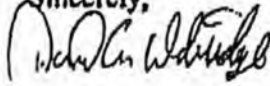
Darius Aldridge
Youth Counselor II
5340 E26th #54
Anch, AK 99508

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is Darius Aldridge and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in McLaughlin Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,



Darius Aldridge

January 21, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Shane Aubrey
1914 Terrebonne Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Rep. Williams,

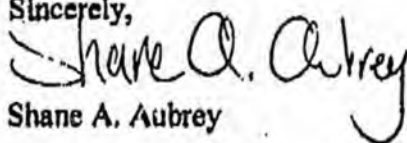
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth Counselor II in Anchorage, Alaska and know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees in our youth facilities across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future.

Sincerely,


Shane A. Aubrey

January 29, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jeff Allen
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Rep. Williams,

Just a short note to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the McLaughlin Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor III, and realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work I perform with serious juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers who are currently in the 20-year system.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in your home community of Ketchikan!

Sincerely,

Jeff Allen

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Craig Davisson
Youth Counselor III
McLaughlin Youth Center
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Rep. Williams,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth Counselor Anchorage, Alaska and know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees in our youth facilities across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Craig Davisson

1/20/02

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Carl Trexler
Youth Counselor II
PO Box 772924
Eagle River
Ak, 99577

Dear Sir,

I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice at the McLaughlin Youth Facility. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Trexler', written over a horizontal line.

Carl Trexler

1-25-02

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Steve Johnston
4145 Kingston Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Dear Rep. Williams,

Thank you very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Unit Leader, and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) to show my support for HB 248.

I have worked for 22 years in this job class and know full well that entry into a 20-year retirement plan, like most others in my division, will have a profound effect on employee morale and longevity across the state. This includes the new Youth Counselors stationed at the new Ketchikan Youth Facility, which I understand is opening soon.

Please let me know what I can do through AJCOA to help support the passage of HB 248.

Sincerely,


Steve Johnston

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Bruce Collins
HC 04 Box 9031
Palmer, AK 99645

February 1, 2002

Dear Rep. Williams,

Thank you very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Unit Leader, and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) to show my support for HB 248.

I have worked for over sixteen years in this job class. I have worked as a Youth Counselor at juvenile facilities in Juneau, Fairbanks, Nome and Palmer. Each facility in the state is a bit different from the other, but the clients and the inherent dangers they present to DJJ facility staff day in and day out are similar. I believe, like most others in my division, that entry into a 20-year retirement plan will have a profound effect on employee morale and longevity across the state. This includes the new Youth Counselors stationed at the new Ketchikan Youth Facility, which I understand is opening soon.

Hiring and retaining qualified, motivated personnel is a challenge to every manager. I believe a 20-year retirement plan would certainly aid managers in this endeavor.

Please let me know what I can do through AJCOA to help support the passage of HB 248.

Sincerely,



Bruce Collins

30 Jan 02

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Rm. 511
Juneau, AK. 99801

Lori Fuller
19357 Lupin St.
Chugiak, AK 99567

Representative Williams,

I am a Youth Counselor at MSYF. I want you to know how much I appreciate your efforts in getting HB 248 passed.

Please contact me if I can assist you in any way considering this issue.

Sincerely,

Lori S. Fuller YCF

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capital Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
Aaron Tanner
1161 Dellwood Apt. B
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is Aaron Tanner and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Mat-Su Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets places before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employees matters in the past and HB-248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB-248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for the 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our states youth facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Tanner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Aaron Tanner

1/21/02

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 998-1-1182

Youth Counselor
Kelli Mahoney
925 Lone Cub Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Williams,

I am grateful for your sponsorship of House Bill 248. I understand that the bill supports the inclusion of Youth Counselor employees from the Division of Juvenile Justice within the Peace Officer's Retirement System.

I am recently employed as a Youth Counselor I in Palmer. This is a second career, and I plan to work as a Youth Counselor for as long as I can. Therefore, I have an interest in the issue of parity in Alaskan correctional institutions. Helping us attain the same 20-year retirement benefit as other employee classes within the Division tells me that you believe the work we do is skilled and professional. I firmly believe that the state will also gain from keeping experienced and hard-working staff to work with the youth in our detention facilities.

I recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association. As a member of the Association, I hope to support your efforts to show fellow counselors and myself that our work is appreciated. Please let me know what I can do to help ensure the passing of HB 248.

Sincerely, Kelli Mahoney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Mahoney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capital Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

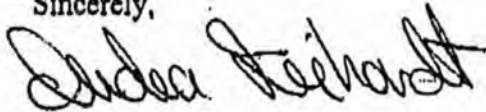
Youth Counselor II
Andrea Freihardt
HC-34 Box 2673
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Williams,

My name is Andrea Freihardt and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice in the Mat-Su Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets places before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employees matters in the past and HB-248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB-248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for the 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our states youth facilities.

Sincerely,



Andrea Freihardt

January 22, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Ed White
Box 1410
Palmer Alaska 99645

Dear Rep. Williams,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth Counselor in Palmer, Alaska and know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities. A 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees in our youth facilities across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Ed White

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Barbara Moore
P.O. Box 73782
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Rep. Williams,

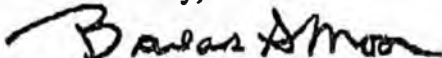
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I work as a Youth counselor for DJJ for 11 years, both in Nome and Fairbanks. I know first hand the nature of the work performed in the division's facilities both in the village and city. Due to the type of residents that we are dealing with the 20-year retirement benefit will go a long way to retain good employees and improve staff morale. Over the years the residents are getting younger and the crimes are more serious. More Mental Health clients are coming into the system, which takes a toll on staff.

In addition to being a youth facility employee, I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. With your leadership in the House on this issue, AJCOA feels confident that HB 248 will have widespread support. Association members will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Please feel free to contact me or any other association member regarding HB 248. Thank you again for your support of the Youth Counselor series employees in our youth facilities across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future.

Sincerely,



JOSE M. GUTIERREZ III

1425 Noble
Fairbanks, AK. 99701
(907) 455-9328
gatoriii@hotmail.com

January 16, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Rm. 511
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Bill Williams,


I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring HB 248, which places the Division of Juvenile Justice, Youth Counselor employee series into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

Although, I have worked less than six months as a Youth Counselor I, in Fairbanks, Alaska, I know first hand the nature of work performed in this type of facility. Prior to moving to Alaska, I lived in Texas and worked in both the Juvenile Justice Division as a certified Texas Juvenile Detention Officer / Youth Counselor and as a Drill Sergeant / Detention Officer in an Adult Probation Bootcamp. The commitment and risks of these professionals should not, in any way or means, be taken for granted. Our allegiance and safety is just as much, if not more in jeopardy as that of our counterparts. A 20-year retirement Benefit would definitely assist in retaining high-quality employees and improve staff morale. Not to mention, assure that our youths would be receiving the much-needed support and experienced counseling, from dedicated staff in this profession.

I am also a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which has been formed to rally support for HB 248. We feel confident, with your leadership in the House on this issue, that HB 248 will have widespread support. Our Association members are in your reserve and will assist in any way possible to ensure the passage of this legislation.

Thanks again for your interest and support. We appreciate your resoluteness regarding HB 248 and Youth Counselor employees across the state. I look forward to the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Jose M. Gutierrez III
Youth Counselor I,
Fairbanks Youth Facility

Jan.27, 2002

Rep. Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 511
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

DeeJana Engle
1045 South Cobb Street
Palmer, AK 99645-6917

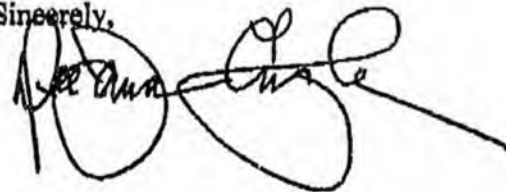
Dear Rep. Williams,

Thank you so very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Youth Counselor II, and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) to show my support for HB 248.

I have worked for 1.3 years in this job class and know full well that entry into a 20-year retirement plan, like most others in my division, will have a great effect on employee morale and longevity across the state. This includes the new Youth Counselors stationed at the new Ketchikan Youth Facility, which I understand is opening soon.

Please let me know what I can do through AJCOA to help support the passage of HB 248. Once again I thank you for your sponsorship of this Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeeJana Engle", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dear Representative Coghill:

Feb 7, '02

I wish I could convey to you how important it is for you to support House Bill 248, a measure that would correct a long-standing injustice toward some of Alaska's most heroic people: the men and women who work in our youth facilities.

I have nothing to gain if this bill should become law — I'm a bureaucrat in an office building, and if I do nothing but sit at my desk for the next twenty years I'll still retire with decent benefits. During that same twenty years, a youth counselor in any one of Alaska's facilities will have risked his (or her) safety many times over. He will be insulted, spat on, and assaulted. He will work many graveyard shifts, overtime hours, and weekends. He will be a consistent presence for Alaska's most confused, frightened, and dangerous children. He will even help some of them turn their lives around. But he will not retire with decent benefits. This is simply wrong.

I wish I could convey to you how important it is for you to support House Bill 248. Please do the right thing for our youth counselors.

Sincerely,

Tony Newman
825 CALHOUN AVE.
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-2172

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matt Froehle".

Matt Froehle

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska: Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Derek Lehmann", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Derek Lehmann

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Bruce Collins
HC 04 Box 9031
Palmer, AK 99645

February 1, 2002

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I wish to let you know that I appreciate your sponsorship and support of House Bill 248, that places Youth Counselors into the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am currently employed by the Mat-Su Youth Facility as a Unit Leader, and realize that passage of this piece of legislation would finally recognize the nature of the work we (my staff and I) perform with serious juvenile offenders. HB 248 also brings fairness between Youth Counselors and the other employees within the Division of Juvenile Justice, such as Juvenile Probation Officers who are currently in the 20-year system.

I have worked for over sixteen years in this job class. I have worked as a Youth Counselor at juvenile facilities in the communities of Juneau, Fairbanks, Nome, and Palmer. As a manager, I constantly struggle with hiring and retaining qualified, motivated personnel. I believe the passage of this bill would assist DJJ managers in this endeavor.

Again, thank you for your recognition of Youth Counselors and the work that they do in our youth facilities across the state and soon in the community of Ketchikan.

Sincerely,



Bruce Collins

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camie English".

Camie English

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct. 23, 1998)
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- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

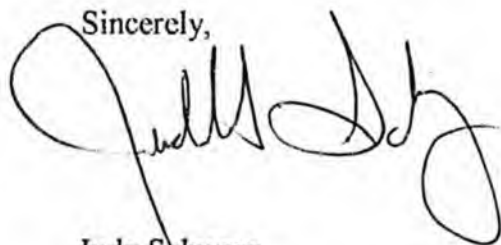
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Schwarz', written in a cursive style.

Judy Schwarz

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Schwarz".

Gary Schwarz

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Malanie Magee

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malanie Magee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Post', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee Post

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

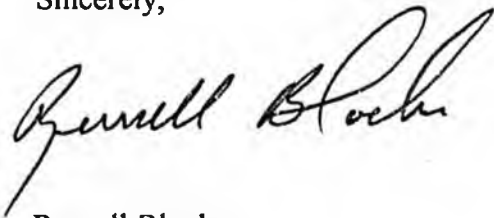
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Blocker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Russell Blocker

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Weston", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis Weston

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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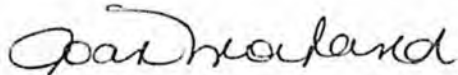
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Moyland".

Joan Moyland

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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Sincerely,



Sheila Graham
Sheila

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

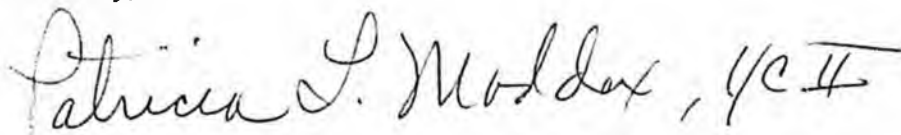
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia S. Maddox, YC II". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Patricia Maddox

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
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- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
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- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Peter Harrison

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 29, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

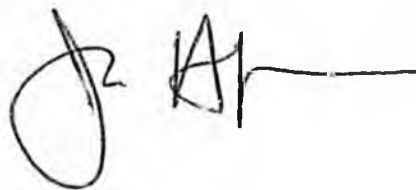
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Sincerely,

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Jim Heafner

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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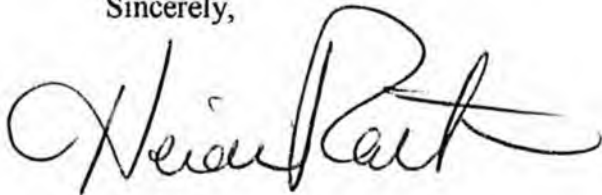
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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Heidi Rath

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 26, 2002

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leslie Wenderoff".

Leslie Wenderoff

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Gary Caddell

January 26, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Sincerely,



Matt Callahan

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 22, 2002

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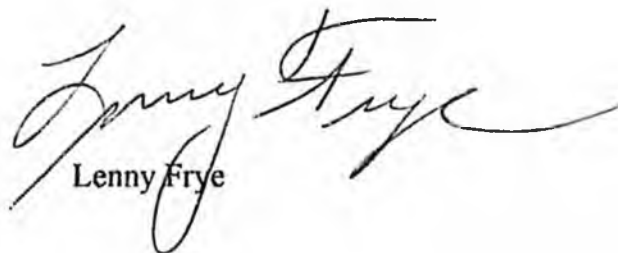
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Lenny Frye

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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DeeDee Raymond

January 26, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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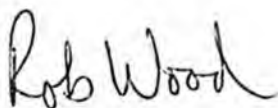
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Sincerely,

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Rob Wood

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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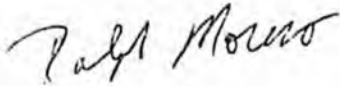
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Ralph Moreno

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Graham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Stephanie Graham

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Bernie Person

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

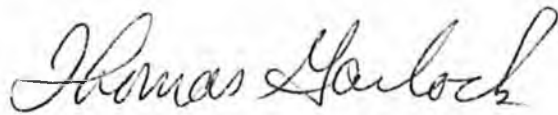
I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Garlock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas Garlock

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska: Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Boudreau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tim Boudreau

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

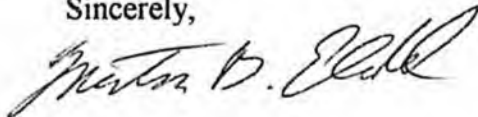
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin B. Eldred".

Martin Eldred,

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

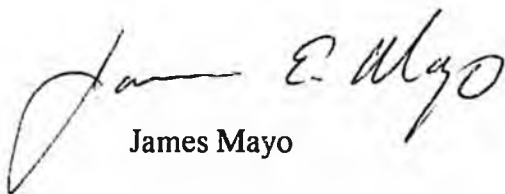
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



James Mayo

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

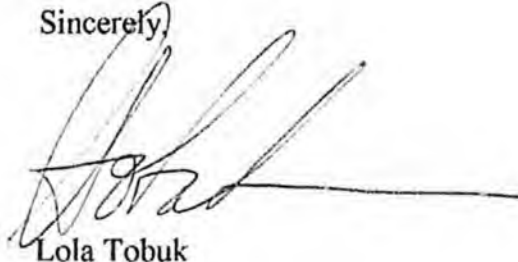
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lola Tobuk', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lola Tobuk

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chairi Agnew".

Chairi Agnew

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselor.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip Lucas" followed by a horizontal line.

Phillip Lucas

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

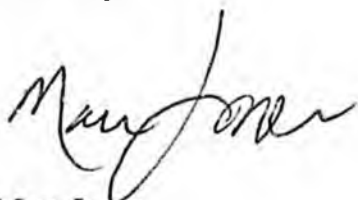
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marc Jones

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Heyward", written in a cursive style.

Michael Heyward

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

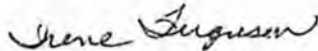
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Irene Ferguson

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

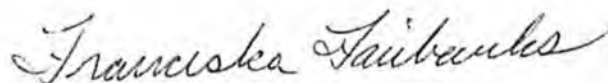
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Franceska Fairbanks

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Beata Roberts

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

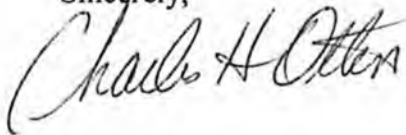
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles H. Otten". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Charles Otten

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Greg Varrati

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

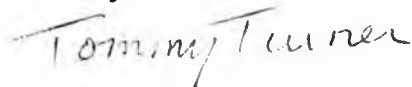
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tommy Turner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tommy Turner".

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

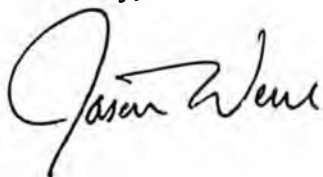
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Werre". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jason Werre

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

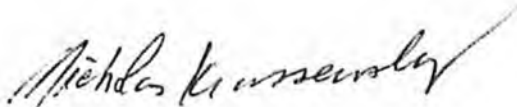
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Krassensky

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Samuel Blackwell

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Tanner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dean Tanner

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Harry Saunders

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eric Morgan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Henry Winkfield

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Winkfield". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

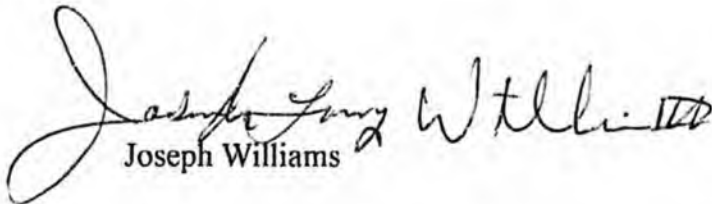
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Joseph Williams

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Patrice Davis

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Unit Leader at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gordon Hays".

Gordon Hays

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Garn".

Tracey Garn

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

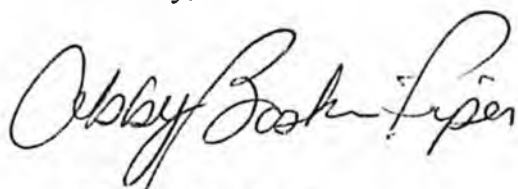
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Baskin-Piper". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Abby Baskin-Piper

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willie Robinson".

Willie Robinson

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shield Downey Jr." with a period at the end.

Shield Downey Jr.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Beiler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mark Beiler

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adrien Torres".

Adrien Torres

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

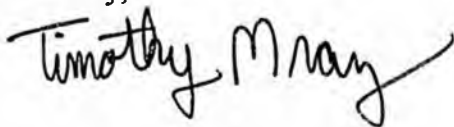
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy Mraz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Timothy Mraz

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Saunders". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Teresa Saunders

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

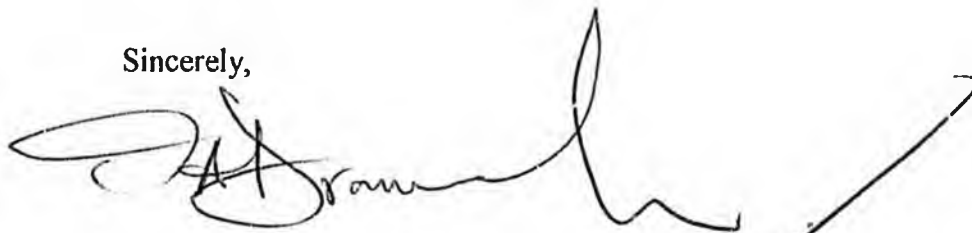
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Omar Drainmeh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Omar Drainmeh

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

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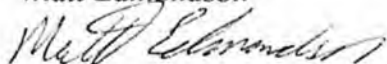
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matt Edmondson



January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Morrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Morrill

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

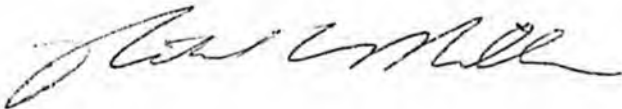
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Millar".

Richard Millar

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

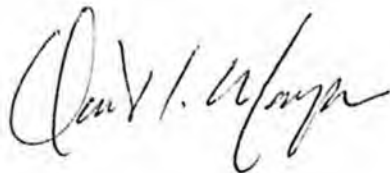
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Mayer".

David Mayer

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Brandt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Brian Brandt

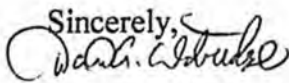
Date 1/20/02
Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Darius Aldridge
Youth Counselor II
5340 E 26th #54
Anch, Ak 99508
Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Darius Aldridge and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. I have been concerned recently about the impending passage of HB 248 for a couple of reasons.

First, Youth Counselors are some of the only DJJ employees not in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Youth Counselors deserve a 20 year retirement package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our division.

Second, as the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee and would be somewhat disappointed to see the opportunity pass us by. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please help make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,

Darius Aldridge

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Pickel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah Pickel

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Hector Flores

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Timothy Beall".

Timothy Beall

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Tyria Candelaria

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

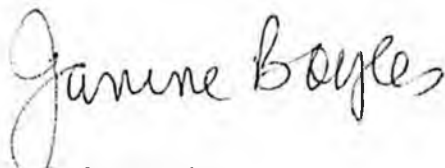
I work as a Administrative Clerk II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janine Boyles". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janine Boyles

Date: January 21, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Shawn Lundgren
661 Goldmine Trail
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Shawn Lundgren and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Lundgren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shawn Lundgren

Date: January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Doug Bergener
1745 Donald Ave.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Rep. Coghill,

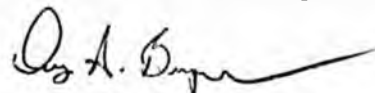
My name is Doug Bergener and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor II in the Fairbanks Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,



Doug Bergener

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Barbara Moore
P.O.Box 73782
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Barbara Moore and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Barb Moore

January 24, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

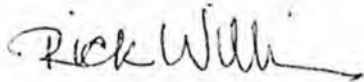
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Rick Williams
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

February 2, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Kevin J. Milles
1220 Park Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
kwej@gci.net

Dear Rep. Coghill,

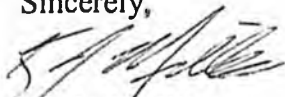
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility for the past 10 years. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Milles

January 25, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Kevin J. Milles
1220 Park Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
kwej@gci.net

Dear Rep. Coghill,

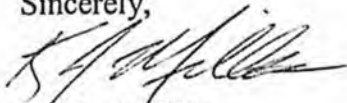
My name is Kevin J. Milles and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor in the Fairbanks Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Milles

January 20, 2002

The Honorable John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jerry Dompeling
3282 Jefferson Dr.
Fairbanks, AK. 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

As the chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time as well as your support.

Sincerely,



To: Honorable John Coghill Jr.
State Capitol Rm. 102
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

From: Rayman Rusty Stith
3596 Lakeview Dr.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701
907-457-2227

January 22, 2002

Dear John Coghill, Jr.

I want to thank you for talking to me about HB248. My name is Rayman (Rusty) Stith and I work at Fairbanks Youth Facility as a Youth Counselor II.

Last week when I called and asked to talk to you, I was amazed that I was not asked what this is regarding or what is your name. I appreciate that.

I am excited that HB248 is in your committee because I feel that you do represent my interests very well. My future as well as many others are riding with HB248 and I really appreciate that you took the time (a lot of time) to talk and explain in detail about the future of HB248.

I understand now why you have to present this bill in the appropriate fashion. I want you to know that as a constituent, I am happy that you represent me.

Thanks,



Rayman (Rusty) Stith

Date: January 23, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Leigh Rovzar YC II
1132 Propwash Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Date: January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Sam Green
602 E. Bentley
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor III at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Sam Green

1/22/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Tim Oney
PO Box 56301
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Rep. Coghill,

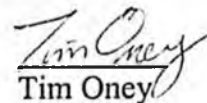
My name is Tim Oney and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor in the Fairbanks Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,


Tim Oney

January 23, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capital Room # 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
Aaron Tanner
1161 Dellwood Apt B
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Coghill,

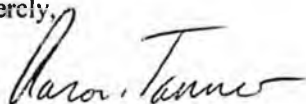
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB-248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB-32 (20 year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a Peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Tanner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Aaron Tanner

1/21/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 998-1-1182

Youth Counselor
Kelli Mahoney
925 Lone Cub Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officer's Association. I am also a new hire at the Mat Su Youth Facility. I hope to continue to serve youth a long time in this position.

My Association strongly supports the passage of HB 248 that includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers' Retirement System. I believe that achieving parity for benefits for employees of the corrections system will help retain qualified counselors. The job of a youth counselor requires expertise and specialized knowledge.

As the Chair of the House State Affairs Committee, I believe you will be sorting through prospective legislation regarding the 20-year retirement for over-looked state employees. AJCOA has supported the effort to achieve parity for over ten years. That's half the time it would take to retire! The other peace officers/corrections officers work hard too, and deserve their benefits. We are just asking for parity.

Please work to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee. Help Youth Counselors, those who are at the front line of rehabilitation, and restorative justice. Help the state employees who deal with violent child criminals- youth who may have four counts of theft and assault on record...yet cry in their cells after waiting in vain for a phone call from home. Our jobs are complicated and undervalued at present. You can help us change this condition so that the kids in detention can be assured of the best care they can get.

Thank you for considering my position on HB 248.

Sincerely, Kelli Mahoney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Mahoney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Jan. 27, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

DeeJana Engle
1045 South Cobb Street
Palmer, AK 99645-6917

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is DeeJana Engle and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor in the Mat-Su Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employees because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeeJana Engle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

January 18, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jeff Burger
1951 Eastridge Dr.
Anchorage AK. 99501

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff Burger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Thomas W. Peria
P.O. Box 2091
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Thomas Peria and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor in the Mat-Su Youth Facility. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

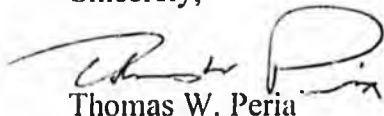
Before becoming a Youth Counselor I served as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer for 9 years. Due to the often unpredictable nature of Juvenile Offenders during the two years I have worked as a Youth Counselor I have seen as many violent acts if not more than when I served as Federal Law Enforcement Officer. The job of a Youth Counselor is more stressful than my prior duties and every bit as dangerous although in different ways and that position offered a 20 year retirement.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more than any other group of employee because of the inequity that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for sometime.

As the Chair, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equity.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Peria

January 23, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capital Room # 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
Andrea Freihardt
HC-34 Box 2673
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep. Coghill,

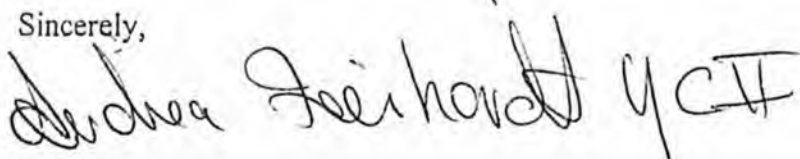
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB-248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB-32 (20 year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a Peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Freihardt YCTF". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Andrea Freihardt

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Mr. Ed White
Box 1410
Palmer Alaska 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

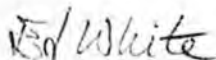
As a juvenile correctional officer, I have seen many of my fellow officers, hurt maliciously by juvenile offenders. They have fashioned weapons out of materials like combs and toothbrushes. I also have been physically assaulted. Every day I work with police, probation officers, parents, and attorneys. I protect the public.

My name is Ed White and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ed White

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

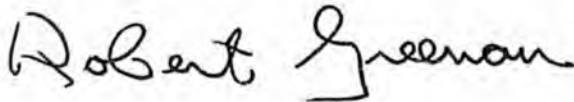
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Greenan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Robert Greenan

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jose M. Gutierrez III
1425 Noble St.
Fairbanks, AK. 99701

Dear Rep. Coghill,

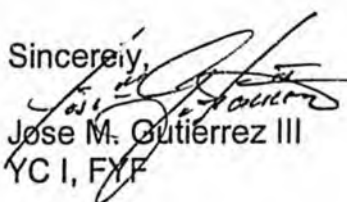
My name is, Jose , and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor I, in the Fairbanks Youth Facility. I recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

Youth Counselors deserve a 20-year package more that any other group of employee because of the inequality that exists within our own division. You probably know that most all other employees in DJJ are in the Peace Officers Retirement System already and have been for quite awhile.

I know that, as the Chair, you can make HB 248 move to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. I would certainly support such an action as a Youth Counselor and an AJCOA member. I know that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it.

Please make HB 248 move for the Youth Counselors as a sign of support for a group of employees who have been working a long time toward fairness and equality.

Sincerely,



Jose M. Gutierrez III
YC I, FYF

Jan. 20, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Lisa Drew
4820 Villanova Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill,

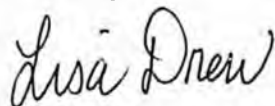
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Drew".

P.O. Box 70829
Fairbanks AK 99707-0829

January 19, 2002

Representative John Coghill
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

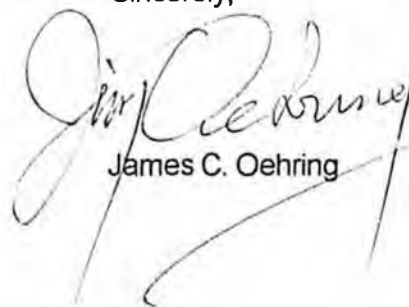
Dear John:

Representative Jim Whitaker has introduced HB296, relating to mergers and consolidations of municipalities, which addresses and seeks to correct two concerns I have had regarding the process. I hope you support this bill in the House.

On another issue, I wonder why longevity bonuses cannot be direct-deposited to claimants' bank accounts. I once asked this question of the cognizant administrative department and was told that they would still have to send out the monthly questionnaire about actually being present in Alaska, but so what? They do that now. Direct-depositing these payments would at least simplify reconciliation of the state's bank accounts.

I would appreciate your attention to these matters. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



James C. Oehring

1/21/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Coghill,

I would like to take a brief moment of your time to encourage your support for the passage of House Bill 248, which places the Youth Counselor employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

I am currently a teacher with the Mat-Su School District. Prior to becoming a teacher I worked as a Youth Counselor, Correctional Officer and Probation Officer in Oregon. Because of my past work experience, I can attest to the need for the passage of this bill.

The services performed by Youth Counselors in the State of Alaska are demanding by nature; the result is 'burnout' and a loss of many good employees that seek employment in fields with less stress, responsibility and danger. Passage of House Bill 248 is a necessity for keeping DJJ Youth Counselors in their chosen profession.

I encourage you to help to end the disparity, which has existed in retirement for Youth Counselors with the rest of the employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy the benefits provided by the Peace Officers Retirement System.

Respectfully,



Frederic Brown
Teacher
MSBSD
Palmer, AK 99645

Date 01/20/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Jeffrey L. Rentzel
P. O. Box 74614
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

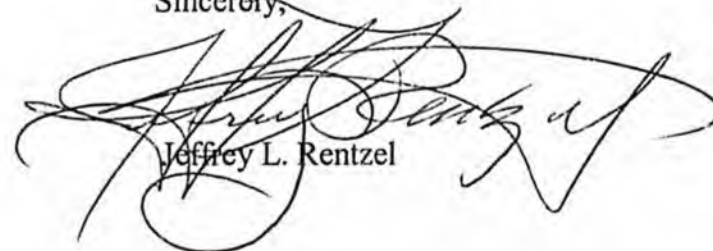
Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Jeffrey L. Rentzel and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Rentzel

January 20, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Maya Adepoju
P.O. Box 74768
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Rep. Coghill,

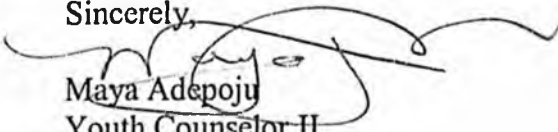
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Maya Adepoju
Youth Counselor II

January 19, 2002

975 Willow Grove Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Honorable John Coghill
House of Representatives
State Capitol #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sir,

I am a 25 year resident of Fairbanks. My four children were born and raised in Fairbanks.

I work as a youth counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility and I, along with other counselors statewide are working to get HB248 passed. This Bill is in your committee and I urge you to give it a hearing. Youth counselors have had similar Bills before the legislature every session for ten years now. Once, it even got to the governor's desk! We feel it has obvious merit for reasons I'd be happy to enumerate if you so chose.

For now, please give this Bill the chance it deserves.

If there is anything I can do to help support you in this endeavor, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Konefal

January 20, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

John R. Dehner
1248-A Grenac Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



John R Dehner

01/19/02

REP. JOHN COGHILL
STATE CAPITOL ROOM #102
JUNEAU, AK. 99801-1182

MARLOW K. CONKLEN
1519 MORRISITY AVE
NORTH POLE A.K. 99705

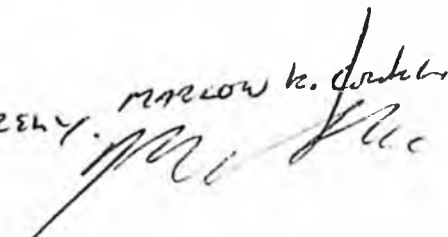
DEAR REP. COGHILL,

MY NAME IS MARLOW K. CONKLEN AND I HAVE IN YOUR DISTRICT, I ALSO WORK FOR THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (DJJ) AS A YOUTH COUNSELOR AT THE FAIRBANKS YOUTH FACILITY. I JOINED THE ALASKA JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (AJCOA) RECENTLY TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF THE YOUTH COUNSELOR 20-YEAR RETIREMENT LEGISLATION, HB 248.

SIR YOU REALLY NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE TYPE OF YOUTH'S WE HAPPEN TO WORK WITH. A 20-YEAR RETIREMENT PACKAGE IS DESERVE MORE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OF EMPLOYEES. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT MOST ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES IN DJJ ARE IN THE PEACE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM ALREADY AND HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

I KNOW, AS THE CHAIR, YOU CAN MAKE HB 248 MOVE TO A HEARING IN THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HB 248 WILL HAVE SUPPORT IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE WHEN THEY SEE IT.

PLEASE MAKE HB 248 MOVE FOR THE YOUTH COUNSELORS AS A SIGN OF GROUP SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING LONG & HARD TOWARD FAIRNESS & EQUITY.

SINCERELY,
MARLOW K. CONKLEN


January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary L. Overstad". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary Overstad

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Theodore Greene".

Theodore Greene

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

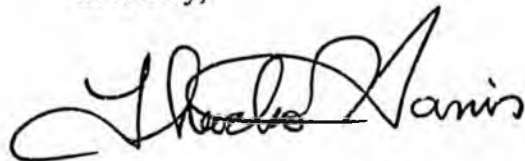
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "H".

Theodore Harris

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

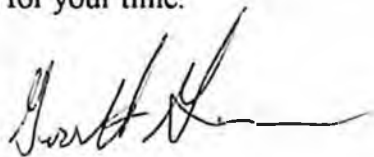
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It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Garrett Gaines

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

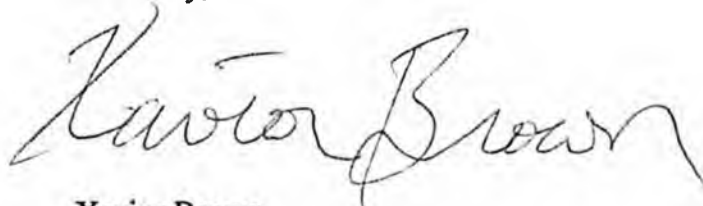
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Xavier Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Xavier Brown

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

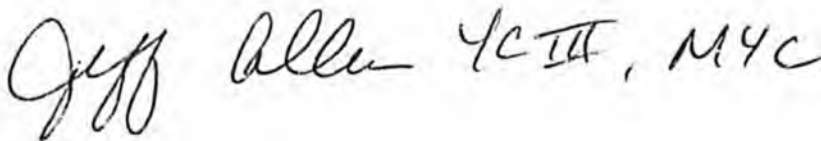
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Allen Youth Counselor III, MYC". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jeff Allen

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

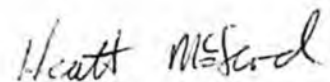
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It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Heath McLeod

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

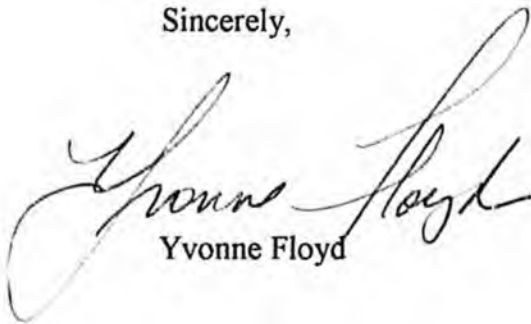
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Floyd

1/25/02

Rep John Coghill
State Capitol Room # 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Vance Conroy
3186 Monkwood Lane
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Vance Conroy. I am a member of the
ATCOA, which supports HB 248. The bill supports
a 20 year retirement for Youth Counselors. Youth Counselors
strongly support HB 248, and the scheduling so the
legislation can be voted on and moved to its next
review by House Finance.

ATCOA has a more than 18 year history fighting for fairness
with fellow PST employees who are in the Peace Officers
Retirement System. The passage of HB 248 is necessary,
and I'm sure the House supports the need for fairness.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your
committee as soon as possible

Sincerely,

Vance Conroy
VCI

Albert R. Phelan
Youth Counselor, MSYF
HC 01 Box 6167
Palmer, AK 99645

1-21-02

Dear Rep. Coghill,

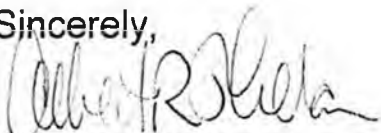
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Mat Su Youth Facility in Palmer, Alaska. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Youth Counselors are Peace Officers as provided for in the Alaska State Statutes and are the only Peace Officers in the State of Alaska that do not currently have a 20 year retirement provided for them.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with a 20 year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990's. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20 year retirement for Youth Counselors), which had passed both the House and the Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and a 20 year retirement is overdue for Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Albert R. Phelan

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Bacon".

Edward Bacon

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

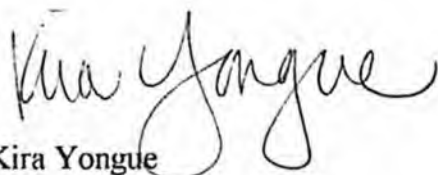
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Kira Yongue

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

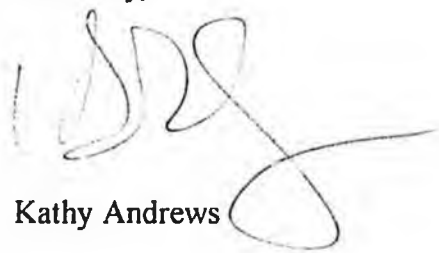
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Andrews', written over a printed name.

Kathy Andrews

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ronald Canady

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Canady". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Ronald Canady".

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

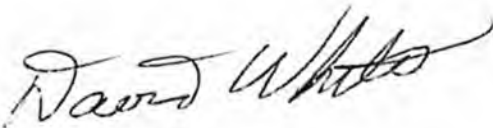
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David White". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David White

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Robert Kehrer

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

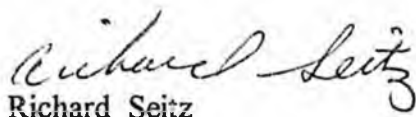
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Richard Seitz

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert Ruddy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Ruddy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

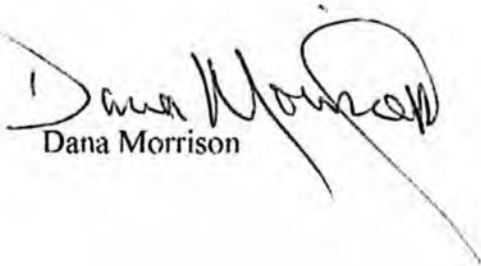
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Dana Morrison

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SE 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gibson', written in a cursive style.

Christian Gibson

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

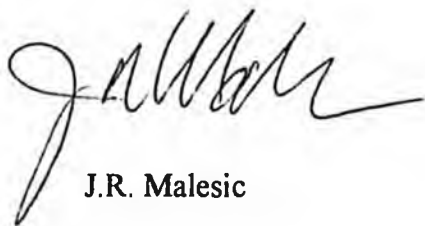
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Malesic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

J.R. Malesic

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

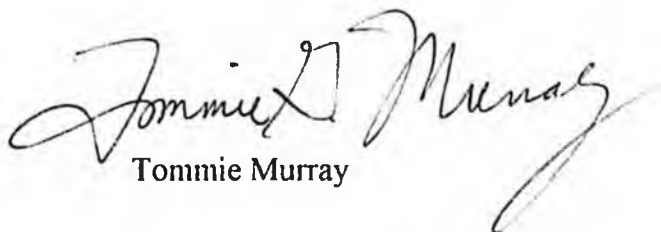
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Unit Leader at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which is passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Tommie Murray

01/21/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Craig Davisson
Youth Counselor III
McLaughlin Youth Center
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



January 21, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Shane Aubrey
1914 Terrebonne Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

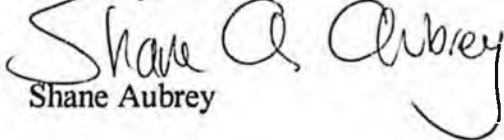
Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is Shane Aubrey and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been renewed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Shane Aubrey

Date: January 19, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Youth Counselor II
478 Carlton Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. The association is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has, for more than 10-years pursued fairness and equafinality with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Nello Cooper Jr., YCII



January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Claudia Krupa
7641 Old Harbor Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I have recently become concerned about the fate of HB 248 and the status of Youth Counselor's retirement opportunities. I work as a Youth Counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center and can identify with the nature and complexity of working with juvenile offenders and the risks that are posed in this arena.

We are one of the only groups of state employees who do not have access to a 20 year retirement and work just as hard and are subject to the same hazards as other groups of state employees. It is only fair that in turn, we receive the same benefits.

I appreciate your concern on our behalf and I am grateful for your ability to make this bill move. As such, I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Claudia V. Krupa

January 24, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

KEITH MEISTRELL

Keith Meistrell
2600 Providence Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

1/20/02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

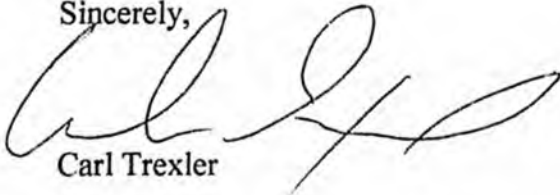
Carl Trexler
Youth Counselor II
PO Box 772924
Eagle River
Ak, 99577

Dear Sir,

I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice at the McLaughlin Youth Facility. I appreciate your sponsorship of House Bill 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors) and hope that it garners support for passage this legislative session and gets placed before the Governor for his signature. I know that you have been supportive of state employee matters in the past and HB 248 is evidence of this continued support. I am confident that HB 248 will benefit the Youth Counselor job class by bringing parity and fairness with the division's other employee classes.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support for 20-year retirement for Youth Counselors in our state's youth facilities.

Sincerely,



Carl Trexler

01-30-2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Harry Goodnight
Youth Counselor
16212 Berthod Way
Eagle River AK. 99577

Dear Rep. Coghill,


I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Harry Goodnight

1-7802

Eric Kuntz
P.O. B. 85231
FBKS. AK
99708

Rep. John Coghill
State Capital Room #102
Juneau, AK
99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill;

It is my understanding that you
are on the House State Affairs Committee.
House Bill 248 is in your committee. Please
PASS this legislation out of your committee
AS A SIGN of your support.

I have worked AS A youth counselor for
about 13 years and we need A 20
year retirement. It would be best for
the residents and the staff.

Thanks, Eric Kuntz

Support for HB 248

A synopsis of the hazards encountered by employees of juvenile detention and correctional institutions.

Following are a few examples from facilities around the state that are representative of the situations that youth counselors must be prepared to encounter and respond to on a daily basis.

- A small bomb was detonated outside of a McLaughlin Youth Center Detention window in an attempt to break out an incarcerated resident.
- A young man detained at the Bethel Youth Facility assaulted a detention youth counselor, stabbing him in the back with a pencil, fracturing his jaw and resulting in a partial hearing loss.
- Using a strip of cloth torn from a towel, a detained youth at the McLaughlin Youth Center attacked a youth counselor by wrapping the fabric around her neck and strangling her. He forced her into his cell and down on to his bed, and tried to get her keys away from her. The attack was interrupted and likely serious injury averted when another youth counselor saw what was happening and intervened.
- Fairbanks community youth attempted to gain entry into the Fairbanks Youth Facility with a blow torch to free a youth who was being held in that facility.
- As a consequence of a drive-by shooting on the campus of the McLaughlin Youth Center, a wall was erected to obstruct the view from Providence Drive.
- Two Nome Youth Facility staff had to physically restrain a youth who was intoxicated, combative, suicidal, and seven months pregnant.
- While escorting a youth from the McLaughlin Youth Center, a youth counselor was ambushed and attacked by a relative of the youth, armed with mace and a samurai sword, who then sprayed the youth counselor with mace and assisted the youth in escaping from custody.
- While physically restraining an out-of-control youth at the Bethel Youth Facility, the youth defecated in her pants, thus exposing the staff members involved to any number of potential infectious agents.
- A 300 pound male resident detained at Johnson Youth Center assaulted staff in an attempt to obtain keys and escape from the facility. The assault resulted in emergency room care, facial contusions, and dental injury.
- During a secure transport of two detained juveniles from the Court House in Palmer, a Mat-Su Youth Facility youth counselor was attacked, choked, and overpowered by the youths, who eventually escaped.
- During the restraint of an out of control 220 pound resident, two McLaughlin Youth Center staff were assaulted. The staff were kicked in the stomach, struck in the head and face, and spit upon by the youth. This resident had Hepatitis C.

During the course of their duties, youth counselors must intervene in fights between residents, they face the risk of being assaulted themselves, and they must endure threats to their well-being and that of their families. Facility staff have experienced the trauma of a resident death by suicide or serious injury by suicide attempt. Youth Counselors routinely transport youth in the community and from one city to another, exposing themselves and the residents to all the potential risks that presents. The youth in our facilities are at high risk for a variety of infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, and TB, and facility staff face exposure to blood, saliva, and other body fluids. Also significant, but less easily defined, is the unpredictable nature of these potential assaults and exposures. Facility staff must be constantly vigilant to this impulsive and potentially dangerous population to ensure the safety of all residents, themselves and other staff, and the community.

Support for HB 248, Peace Officer/20-Year Retirement for Employees of Juvenile Detention and Correctional Institutions

- An inequity exists within the Public Employees Retirement System pertaining to employees of juvenile correctional facilities. Currently adult correctional officers, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute, Youth Counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The Alaska Statutes address the status of youth counselors as peace officers in AS 47.12.270 which reads, in part, **"Youth Counselors have the powers of a peace officer with respect to the service of process, the making of arrests of minors who violate state or municipal law, and the execution of orders of the court relating to juveniles, and shall assist and advise the courts in the furtherance of the welfare and control of minors under the court's jurisdiction."**
- In an October, 1998 decision (Arthur Earl WILSON v. State of Alaska, No. A-6396), the Court of Appeals of Alaska addressed the issue of youth counselors as correctional officers in the context of applicability of presumptive sentencing. Wilson attempted escape from McLaughlin Youth Center by strangling a youth counselor, forcing her into a cell, and attempting to gain control of her keys. The assault and escape attempt were interrupted by another youth counselor. The superior court ruled that presumptive sentencing applied because the assault was **"directed at a correctional officer who was engaged in the performance of her duties"**. Wilson challenged this ruling, among others, in his appeal. The State argued that, for purposes of Title 11, McLaughlin is a **"correctional facility"** and it is thus logical to classify the people who supervise McLaughlin inmates as **"correctional officers"**. In affirming the presumptive sentence under the former AS 12.55.125(d)(3), the Court of Appeals found statutory support for the State's argument in AS 47.12.270, and stated that youth counselors are **"...expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions"**. Their decision further states that youth counselors **"...are duty-bound to expose themselves to potential assault and duty-bound not to turn away when assault actually occurs. Thus, they are members of the same class of public employees that the legislature wished to protect and vindicate when the legislature enacted former AS 12.55.125(d)(3)."**
- Youth Counselors are responsible for the security, safety, and rehabilitation of a population distinguished by its impulsiveness. They provide life saving first aid in emergency situations such as suicide attempts and self harm behavior by incarcerated youth. Staff are assaulted, they must intervene in physical altercations between residents, they must physically control residents who are attempting to harm themselves or others, and they must protect the public by ensuring that facilities are secure and preventing escapes.
- In 1991, SB 32, which addressed this ongoing inequity in the retirement system, was introduced. It passed the House and the Senate, and was subsequently vetoed by then Governor Hickel. Records from the committee hearings and testimony at that time indicate the consideration of a variety of factors in passing this legislation, including working conditions substantially similar to those in adult correctional facilities, the physical risks faced by employees of juvenile correctional facilities, public safety concerns, the inevitable loss of physical and emotional stamina which occurs with age, and youth counselors as peace officers in the Alaska Statutes.

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Grant Klotz
Youth Counselor III
5121 Seldon Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507

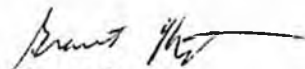
Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.


Sincerely,

Please see enclosed page.

Thanks again for all your support.



Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

1/26/02

Rep John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Coghill:

Please support HB 248, which includes the Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

As a new employee to this system in AK, I was shocked to learn that I fell under a 30 yr retirement plan when other states have 20 yr plans. As Youth Counselors, we are exposed to a lot of verbal, emotional and sometimes physical abuse and this causes people to suffer a variety of ailments. Those of us in this system chose to work with these youthful offenders because we believe that we can make a difference in someone's life.

Passing this bill, will enable the system to keep Youth Counselors in these positions. Turnover rates would decrease enormously and the residents would have consistency in their lives - something they never had until institutionalization.

Please support this bill. It's fair to us - the ones that deal with the daily issues that haunt these residents; the ones who have to deal with verbally abusive residents; the ones who care.

Thank you so much for your
support.

Sincerely,

Denise Mitchell

691 8th Ave

Fairbanks, AK 99701

30 Jan 02

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Rm. 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Lori Fuller
19357 Lupin St.
Chugiak, AK 99567

Representative Coghill,

I would like to direct your attention toward HB248 which I'm asking you to support on my behalf.

Delinquent youth are unpredictable and often violent. 20 years of service in this environment should be equal to a full retirement.

I look forward to your decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lori N. Fuller yci

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Curtis Harris
204 Steelhead Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Rep. Coghill

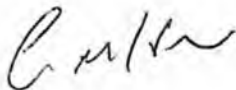
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

This piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. There are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB-248 represents some of the efforts by AJCOA. Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 in the early 90s (20 year retirement) which had passed both the House and Senate and now this legislation comes up again. The AJCOA has supported the effort to bring equality to the Youth Counselor position, in the form of 20 retirement.

I ask that you support this legislation so that it may be passed out of the House State Affairs Committee and on to the House Finance Committee. The importance of this bill is that it will bring about equality with the rest of the Division of Juvenile Justice whom already enjoy a Peace Officers Retirement benefit.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

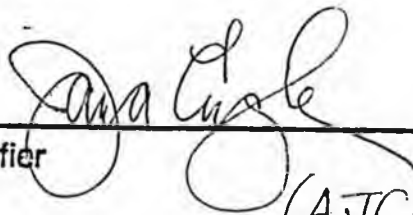




Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
committee name
 committee on HB 248, dated 2-19-02
bill/subject

My name is Jana Engle. I am a member of Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA). I support HB248 and encourage you to do so also. Please make our retirement equitable to all other Peace Officers in the State of Alaska.

Signed: 
 Testifier (AJCOA)
 Representing (Optional)
1045 S. Cobb St. Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
(907) 745-1255
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
committee name

committee on HB 248, dated Feb 19, 2002
bill/subject

I urge you to pass HB 248 out of committee today as a ~~first~~ first step toward resolving the inequity which exists within the ranks of the Division of Juvenile Justice.

The Alaska Juvenile Correctional officers have gathered a nearly 150 signatures of those who support 20yr retirement for youth counselors. Thank you for your support.

Signed: [Signature]

Testifier

Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Assn.

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 331 Palmer, AK 99645

Address

745-3549

Phone No.

House Bill 254

Section by Section Analysis

Internal Revenue Code Compliance Legislation

Division of Retirement and Benefits

Sections 1 - 14 Apply to the Teachers' Retirement System

Section 1 Clarifies that the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is intended to be a qualified retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code. TRS must maintain its qualified status in order to ensure that members receive favorable tax treatment of contributions made on their behalf and of distributions that they receive from the plan. Except as otherwise noted, none of the amendments in this bill will alter current practice.

Section 2 Adds member information handbook as a statutory requirement in TRS. This is current practice.

Section 3 Adds mandatory language relating to Internal Revenue Code requirement that contributions deducted from employee salaries be treated as employer contributions. This requires the contribution to be made by a payroll deduction and not a separate post tax payment that is converted to pre-tax monies. This is necessary for these contributions to be taken pre-tax. This is current practice.

Section 4 Clarifies that employer contributions to TRS include any adjustments to contributions as a result of a change or error made in the contributions made on behalf of an employee (Ref. Section 8). This is current practice.

Section 5 Adds language allowing purchase of service credit in TRS using pre-tax money in other tax deferred plans (from a 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity or a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan). It also allows purchase of service credit through pre-tax payroll deductions. The language in this section is drafted to comply with the requirements of the IRS.

Section 6 Adds mandatory language prohibiting TRS from paying benefits in excess of the maximum permitted under section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and limiting compensation taken into account for plan purposes in accordance with section 401(a)(17) of the Code.

Section 7 Allows direct rollover of TRS employee contribution accounts to an eligible retirement plan. Section 401(a)(30) of the Internal Revenue Code requires qualified plans to permit such rollovers. This is current practice.

Section 8. Conforms the plan's distribution provisions to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 9 Adds reference to change or error in contributions made on behalf of a TRS employee.

Section 10 Specifies that the money in the TRS trust is for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. Specifies what occurs if the system is terminated. These provisions are required by section 401(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 11 Conforms plan provisions to the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, under which the plan must treat certain service in the Armed Forces by returning veterans as service with the employer.

Section 12 Conforms plan provisions to the requirement of section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code that actuarial assumptions used to determine benefits be specified in writing. A reference to the actuarial tables will be added to the member information handbook.

Section 13 Adds language to the TRS section on qualified domestic relations orders to require reference to the plan to which an order applies.

Section 14 Defines "Internal Revenue Code" and "fiscal year" to conform to IRC requirements.

Sections 15 - 23 Apply to the Judicial Retirement System

Section 15 Allows pre-tax deduction of contributions to the Judicial Retirement System. This is similar to the current practice for PERS, TRS, SBS, and Deferred Compensation.

Section 16 Corrects an erroneous reference in the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) statute to 'compensation' rather than 'retirement pay'."

Section 17 Specifies distributions of monies. Section 401(a)(30) of the Internal Revenue Code requires qualified plans are required to permit such rollovers. Conforms the plan's distribution provisions to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.. This section is required to avoid immediate taxation of such rollovers. This is current practice. Adds mandatory language prohibiting JRS from paying benefits in excess of the maximum permitted under section 415 of the

Internal Revenue Code and limiting compensation taken into account for plan purposes in accordance with section 401(a)(17) of the Code.

Section 18 Clarifies that the Judicial Retirement System (JRS) is intended to be a qualified retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code. JRS must maintain its qualified status in order to ensure that members receive favorable tax treatment of contributions made on their behalf and of distributions that they receive from the plan. Except as otherwise noted, none of the amendments in this bill will alter current practice.

Section 19 Corrects an erroneous reference to 'compensation' rather than 'survivors' benefits'.

Section 20/21 These provisions are required by section 401(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Specifies that the money in the JRS trust is for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. Specifies what occurs if the system is terminated.

Section 22 Conforms plan provisions to the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, under which the plan must treat certain service in the Armed Forces by returning veterans as service with the employer.

Section 23 Adds and amends definitions to conform plan provisions to the requirement of section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code. (1) Actuarial assumptions used to determine benefits be specified in writing. The assumptions will be added to the member information handbook. (2) Adds a requirement that a qualified domestic relations order identify the plan to which it applies.

Sections 24 - 38 Apply to the Public Employees' Retirement System

Section 24 Clarifies that the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is intended to be a qualified retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code. PERS must maintain its qualified status in order to ensure that members receive favorable tax treatment of contributions made on their behalf and of distributions that they receive from the plan. Except as otherwise noted, none of the amendments in this bill will alter current practice.

Section 25 Specifies that the money in the PERS trust is for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. These provisions are required by section 401(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 26 Adds member information handbook as a statutory requirement in PERS. This is current practice.

Section 27 Adds mandatory language relating to Internal Revenue Service ruling that contributions deducted from employee salaries be treated as employer contributions. This is necessary for these contributions to be taken pre-tax. This is current practice.

Section 28 Adds language allowing purchase of service credit in PERS using pre-tax money in other tax deferred plans. (Included are allowed transfers from 401(a) - Non-SBS, from a conduit IRA, from a 403(b), from a 457 plan, from the SBS Plan if the IRS makes a determination to allow this (see section 40 for IRS determination required). It also allows purchase of service credit through pre-tax payroll deductions. This requires the contribution to be made by a payroll deduction and not a separate post tax payment that is converted to pre-tax monies. The language in this section is drafted to comply with the requirements of the IRC

Section 29 Allows direct rollover of PERS employee contribution accounts to an eligible retirement plan. Section 401(a)(30) of the Internal Revenue Code requires qualified plans to permit such rollovers. This is current practice.

Section 30 Clarifies that employer contributions to PERS include any adjustments to contributions as a result of a change or error made in the contributions made on behalf of an employee. This is current practice.

Section 31 Adds IRS required language relating to the administrative director of the Alaska Court System, in the event the administrative director elects to withdraw from the Judicial Retirement System.

Section 32 Adds mandatory language prohibiting PERS from paying benefits in excess of the maximum permitted under section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and limiting compensation taken into account for plan purposes in accordance with section 401(a)(17) of the Code.

Section 33 Conforms the plan's distribution provisions to the minimum distribution requirements of section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 34 Adds clarifying language to a section relating to a change or error in contributions made on behalf of a PERS employee.

Section 35 Indicates that benefits paid by PERS may be subject to Federal Income taxes. The present version of the statute indicates that PERS benefits are exempt from Alaska state and municipal taxation. This clarifies the tax applicability at the Federal level.

Section 36 Conforms plan provisions to the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, under which the plan must treat certain service in the Armed Forces by returning veterans as service with the employer.

Section 37 Conforms plan provisions to the requirement of section 401(a)(25) of the Internal Revenue Code relating to the actuarial assumptions used to determine benefits. Reference to the assumptions will be included in the member information handbook.

Section 38 Adds language to the PERS section on qualified domestic relations orders to require reference to the plan to which an order applies.

Sections 39 - 42 Relate To The Effective Date of Parts of This Act

- Section 39 Repeals out-of-date sections in the TRS, JRS and PERS statutes.
- Section 40 A temporary section of law that makes section 28, direct transfers from the SBS Annuity Plan, contingent on a favorable IRS ruling. Section 28 as it relates to SBS direct transfers are not effective unless the IRS favorably rules on this issue.
- Section 41 Retroactivity clauses to meet IRC requirements.
- Section 42 Immediate Effective Date

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES

P.O. Box 56622
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-1546
FAX (907) 488-4271



While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
(907) 465-3743
FAX (907) 465-2381

House of Representatives
House District 34

DATE: February 12, 2002
TO: Representative John Coghill, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
RE: Request to hear HB 254

Please schedule the following bill for a hearing in State Affairs at your earliest convenience:

HB 254, "TAX QUALIFIED STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS"

The sectional analysis and sponsor statement are attached.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeannette James".

Representative Jeannette James

<no subject>

Wed, Feb 13, 2002 2:27 PM

Subject: <no subject>

John Lund
PO Box 202460
Anchorage, Alaska 99520

Representative John Coghill, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 13, 2002

Representative Coghill

I appreciate any help you can offer me on HB 254. It affords Alaskans like myself to participate in the new Federal tax law. The Alaskan Teacher Retirement System (TRS) recommends that individuals wishing to retire this year have all the necessary paperwork in by April 1, 2002.

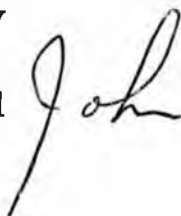
I am having a difficult time understanding why this legislation is being stalled.

I have enclosed correspondence for your review.

I appreciate any your time and effort in the legislature on the part of Alaskans like myself.

Sincerely

John Lund



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0200
PHONE: (907) 465-2200
FAX: (907) 465-2135

September 11, 2001

Mr. John Lund
P.O. Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

Dear Mr. Lund:

Governor Knowles asked me to respond to your correspondence regarding the proposed legislation to allow payment of TRS indebtedness using 403(b) funds.

I have asked to Division of Retirement and Benefits to seek immediate effective date for the proposed legislation, meaning the bill (House Bill 254) will take effect on the day after it is signed by the Governor.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



JimDuncan
Commissioner

JD/GB/jd

CTS #59246

cc: Guy Bell, Director
Division of Retirement & Benefits



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TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
governor@gov.state.ak.us

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. BOX 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
Fax (907) 465-3532
www.gov.state.ak.us

August 14, 2001

Mr. John Lund
P.O. Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

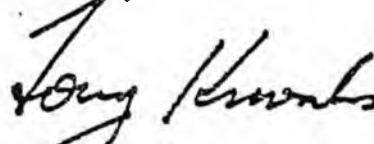
Dear Mr. Lund:

Thank you for your letter regarding 403(b) funds. As you are aware, Congress has passed a law allowing 403(b) and 457 funds to be used to purchase retirement service credit on a pre-tax basis if a person has an indebtedness or outstanding service which could be purchased under PERS or TRS. The state will also need to change the retirement systems' law to allow a transfer.

There is a bill pending in the Legislature dealing with retirement systems, and we anticipate adding the necessary language to that bill. If the legislation passes next session, it would become effective July 1, 2002.

Please note your 403(b) plan would also need to be amended so its plan document allows for the transfer of funds. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Tony Knowles
Governor

cc: Jim Duncan, Commissioner, Department of Administration
Guy Bell, Director, Division of Retirement and Benefits
Mike Abbott

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0200
PHONE: (907) 465-2200
FAX: (907) 465-2135

October 25, 2000

Mr. John Lund
P.O. Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

Dear Mr. Lund:

The following is in response to your recent letter concerning H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act." This act would allow transferability of tax deferred amounts in a 403b plan into the Alaska Teachers' Retirement System to purchase service there; and a host of other retirement savings possibilities. We have actively supported this vital legislation.

As indicated previously by our Congressional Delegation, such transfers are not presently allowed. Congress has passed such legislation again this year, however. The U.S. House and Senate have overwhelmingly approved the Act. It is presently awaiting concurrence as to changes by both Houses. As you are well aware, just about anything can happen in a Presidential election year. The final fate of this legislation is still in the hands of the Congress and the President.

As you are aware from previous correspondence, the Division of Retirement & Benefits is already working on a project to update all of the State's plans (Public Employees', Teachers', and Judicial Retirement Systems) so that they could accept pre-tax contributions to purchase service. This requires an IRS Private Letter Ruling and other IRS plan qualification filings.

Action by the Alaska State Legislature will also be necessary to effect these changes. I can assure you that we will work diligently and cooperatively with the Legislature to ensure passage in the proper manner.

Sincerely,



Jim Duncan
Commissioner

JD/AS/jd

cc: Guy Bell, Director
Division of Retirement and Benefits



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CHAIRMAN
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FINANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

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(202) 224-5301 FAX

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KENAI, AK 99511-7718
(907) 283-5808

540 WATER STREET, SUITE 101
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6378
(907) 225-6880

851 E. WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

September 29, 2000

Mr. John A. Lund
Post Office Box 202460
Anchorage, AK 99520

Dear John:

Thank you for contacting me regarding 403(b) and IRA transfers into your retirement account with the State of Alaska Teacher Retirement System. I appreciate hearing from you again and I welcome the opportunity to give you an update.

On September 7, the Senate Finance Committee, which I am a member, unanimously approved H.R. 1102, The Retirement Security and Savings Act of 2000.

Some provisions that are of key importance are:

- Allowing individual over age 70-1/2 to roll over amounts from their IRAs directly without incurring income tax.
- Increasing the \$2,000 Individual retirement Account (IRA) contribution limit to \$5,000 and expanding eligibility for deductible IRAs.
- Partially restoring the section 415 dollar limits on annual pension contributions.
- Eliminating the complex maximum exclusion allowance (MEA) under Section 403(b)(2) and the 25 percent salary limit under Section 415(c) on pension plan contributions.
- Encouraging portability of retirement plans assets between 401(k), 403(b), 457, and other employer sponsored plans.

It is my hope that this important piece of legislation will come to the Floor of the Senate for a vote within the next few weeks. I assure you that it has my complete support.

Sincerely,



Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

HOME PAGE AND WEB MAIL
MURKOWSKI.SENATE.GOV

January 15, 2002

John A. Lund
P. O. Box 202460
Anchorage AK 99520-2460

Dear John:

Your January 11 letter raised several questions. Here is my understanding of what you can expect.

Lincoln will honor transfer requests from your 403(b) accounts to TRS once enabling legislation becomes law. I expect Division of Retirement and Benefits will need to provide a form for this purpose. It should identify your account or accounts, specify amounts, attest to the legality of the transactions and require your signature.

Once Lincoln receives this form, a check will be issued or electronic transfer made within 7 days. The transfer will not be subject to a 10% early withdrawal tax. There should be no tax consequences and no 1099 issued by Lincoln as long as direct transfer rules are followed.

Up until your 10-year anniversary date on 6/23/02, a 4% company surrender charge will apply to any withdrawal from Lincoln Contract No. 96-5711903 that exceeds 15% of the account value. In other words, you could transfer 15% (approximately \$11,850) without a charge. Anything over that incurs a 4% charge. If you could delay any transfers in excess of 15% until after 6/23/02, there would be no surrender charge. You are correct in concluding that Contract No. 96-5677625 has no surrender charge.

I hope this answers your questions. Since we haven't done one of these yet, I suppose some other issues could rise, but it looks pretty straightforward.


From your standpoint, it certainly sounds made to order for your retirement plans. I hope this proves to be the case. I'll let you know if I learn anything that is different than what I've indicated here.

Best Regards,



Bill Hueners

mab

 Mr John Lund
PO Box 202460
Ste 1
Anchorage AK 99520



Representative John Coghill, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
 committee name
 committee on HB 248, dated Feb 19, 2002
 bill/subject

I urge you to pass HB 248 out of committee today as a ~~first~~ first step toward resolving the inequity which exists within the ranks of the Division of Juvenile Justice.

The Alaska Juvenile Correctional officers have gathered a nearly 150 signatures of those who support 20% retirement for youth counselors. Thank you for your support.

Signed: [Signature]

Testifier

Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Assn.

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 331 Palmer, AK 99645

Address

745-3549

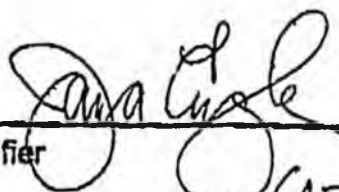
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
committee name
 committee on HB 248, dated 2-19-02
bill/subject

My name is Jana Engle. I am a member of Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA). I support HB248 and encourage you to do so also. Please make our retirement equitable to all other Peace Officers in the State of Alaska.

Signed: 
 Testifier (AJCOA)
 Representing (Optional)
1045 S. Cobb St. Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
(907) 745-1255
 Phone No.

Petition Supporting HB 248

We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Art Mangrum</u>	<u>681. S. Will. Way</u>
<u>Michelle James</u>	<u>Michelle James</u>	<u>PO Box 874713 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>PHIL WILSON</u>	<u>PO Box 874713 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jesse James</u>	<u>1161 Bellwood Apt B Wasilla, AK 99654</u>
<u>Karen Kemper</u>	<u>Karen Kemper</u>	<u>Box 873503 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>KEVIN DUTCHER</u>	<u>Box 875025 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Kristy Dutcher</u>	<u>KRISTY DUTCHER</u>	<u>P.O. Box 875025 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Stefanie Klee</u>	<u>Stefanie Klee</u>	<u>PO Box 3732 Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Sharon Sinko</u>	<u>SHARON SINKO</u>	<u>P.O. Box 870843 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Betty Clavers</u>	<u>Betty Clavers</u>	<u>PO Box 873273 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Connie M. James</u>	<u>Connie M. James</u>	<u>Box 872622 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

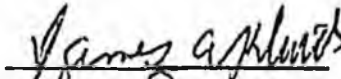
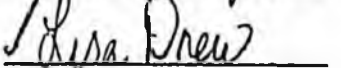

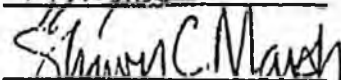
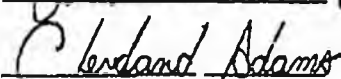
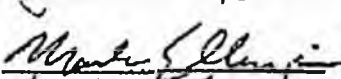
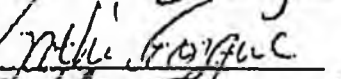

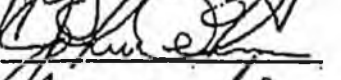

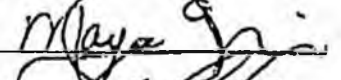
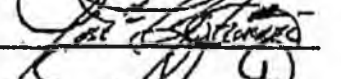
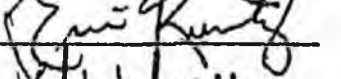
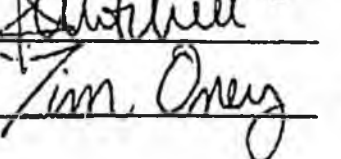
We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Shawn Lindgren</u>	<u>661 goldmine Trail FBKS, AK 99701</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Lisa Beattie</u>	<u>PO Box 82671 Flnks AK 99708</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>SARA HARVISON</u>	<u>PO Box 81586 Flnks AK 99708</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Marilyn Berslin</u>	<u>2011 southernn Ave. Fairbanks AK 99709</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Arlene Cooper JR</u>	<u>478 Carlton Dr. FBKS AK 9970</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>BARRY LEVIT</u>	<u>456 Sprucewood Park P. All 99700</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>RAYMAN STITH</u>	<u>3596 LAKEVIEW DR FAIKS 997</u> <u>PO BOX 60833</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Tyler S. Yee</u>	<u>FBKS, AIC 99706</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>MARLON K. CONKLIN</u>	<u>1519 MOLANISITY AVE</u> <u>FAIKS AK. 99705</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Samuel Green III</u>	<u>602 E. Ruffin Dr. FBKS, AK 99701</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>BARBARA MOORE</u>	<u>P.O. 73792 FBK, AK 99707</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jerry L. Dampaling</u>	<u>3282 Jefferson Dr. FBKS, AK 99709</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>ALAN P. MITCHELL</u>	<u>2663 TURNER ST. #6, FBKS 99701</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

Signed By Employees of Alaska's Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

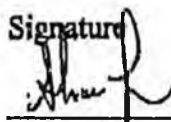
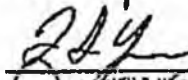
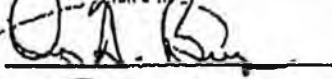
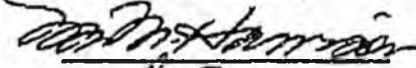
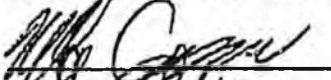

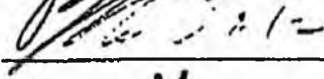
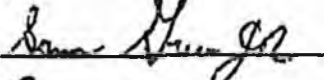
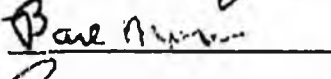
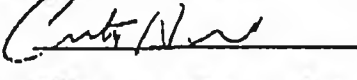
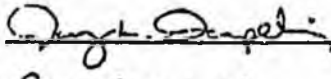
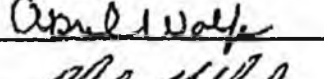
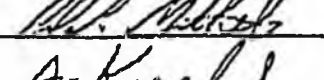
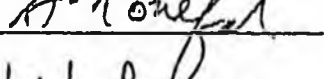
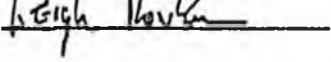
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Signature	Printed Name	Institution
	James A. Klein	FYF
	Lisa Drew	FYF
	Kevin J. Miller	FYF
	SHAWN C. MARSH	FYF
	Cleveland Adams	FYF
	Mark Ellington	FYF
	KATHI FORGUE	FYF
	Jeffrey L. Rentzel	FYF
	John Dehmer	FYF
	NORMA KAHL	FYF
	Maya Adepoju	FYF
	Eric Kuntz	FYF
	Denise Mitchell	FYF
	Tim Oney	FYF

Petition Supporting HB 248

Signed By Employees of Alaska's Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

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Signature	Printed Name	Institution
	Shawn Lindgren	FYF
	Tyler S. Yee	FYF
	Doug Bergeson	FYF
	SARA HARVISON	FYF
	Nella Cooper Jr	FYF
	RAYMOND S T T	FYF
	MARLON CONKERN	FYF
	Samuel Green Jr	FYF
	BARBARA MOORE	FYF
	Curtis Harris	FYF
	Jerry L. Donohue	FYF
	Cheryl Wolf	FYF
	ALAN MITCHELL	FYF
	ART KONEFAL	FYF
	Leigh Brown	FYF

YC II TANNER

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature

Printed Name

Address

Robin Sammitt Robin Sammitt PO Box 871922 Wasilla AK

Craig Moseley Craig Moseley PO Box 462 Palmer AK 99646

Sheila Moseley Sheila Moseley PO Box 462 Palmer AK 99646

Dale A. Hammit Dale A. Hammit P.O. Box 871922 Wasilla AK

Alec Ralston Alec Ralston PO box 871922 Wasilla AK

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature

Printed Name

Address

Douglas Engle Douglas Engle 1045/S Coth Palmer/Ak

Mary A Hamilton MARY A HAMILTON HC 33RX 3197 Wasilla AK.

Jeremiah Hamilton Jeremiah Hamilton HC 330319.7 Wasilla AK.

David Stone DAVID STONE P.O. Box 4409 Palmer AK 99645

Frank Scheibel Frank Scheibel P.O. Box 2546 Palmer, AK 99645

Kevan M. Stock Kevan M. Stock HC03 8102-H Palmer AK 99645

Chas Klony Chas Klony PO Box 72149 Anchorage AK 99504

Angela L Hansen Angela L Hansen P.O. Box 872966 Wasilla, AK 99668

Geniene Worden Geniene Worden 1578 Pioneer Peak Wasilla AK 99657

Candice Limmer CANDICE LIMMER 403 S. Alaska St. Palmer AK 99645

Sherridan Nesgranges Sherridan Nesgranges 1980 Finger Cove Dr Palmer, AK 99645
Natasha Gott Natasha Gott P.O. Box 876582 Wasilla, AK 99687 99645

YCH TANNER

Petition Supporting HB 248

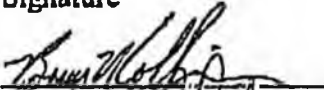
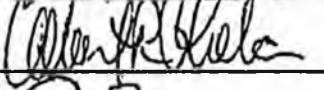
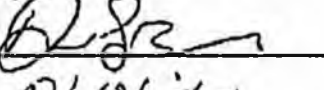
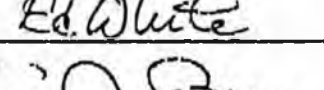
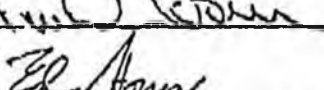
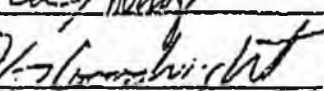
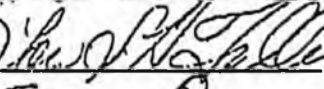
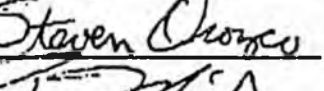
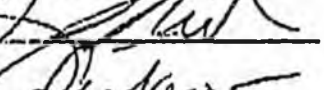
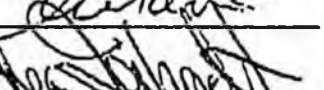
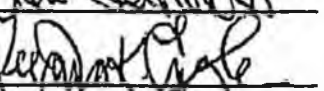
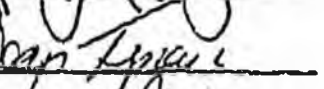
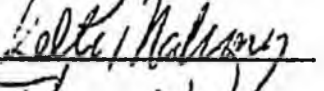
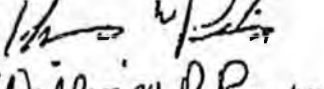
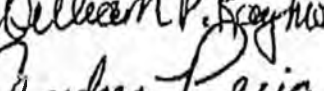
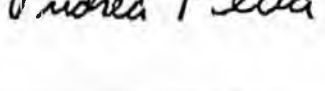

We the undersigned support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. We believe it is both appropriate and fair that employees of our state's juvenile facilities be eligible for the same retirement benefits afforded adult correctional facility employees and adult and juvenile probation officers. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Don Tanner</u>	<u>Don TANNER</u>	<u>PO 696 Tallahassee FL 99676</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Chuck Payson</u>	<u>P.O. 520912 Big Lake 99652</u>
<u>Andrea Payson</u>	<u>Sandra PAYSON</u>	<u>P.O. Box 520912 Big Lake 99652</u>
<u>Laurie Swindell</u>	<u>Dominic Swindell</u>	<u>735 Colonial Ct. Wasilla, AK 99654</u>
<u>Gareth Buel</u>	<u>GARETH BUEL</u>	<u>3701 EUREKA ST ANCHORAGE AK 99507</u>
<u>Jocelyn Whaley</u>	<u>Jo Ellen Whaley</u>	<u>11031 Box 5084 Wasilla, AK 99655</u>
<u>Frederic Berrien</u>	<u>Frederic Berrien</u>	<u>Box 3115 Palmer, AK 99676</u>
<u>Kristan Cole</u>	<u>KRISTAN COLE</u>	<u>PO Box 871706 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Bradford Cole</u>	<u>Bradford Cole</u>	<u>PO Box 871706 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Bryan R. Epley</u>	<u>Bryan R. Epley</u>	<u>PO Box 4346 Palmer, AK 99676</u>
<u>Sharnae J. Epley</u>	<u>Sharnae J. Epley</u>	<u>PO Box 4346 Palmer, AK 99676</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

Signed By Employees of Alaska's Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

We the undersigned employees of State of Alaska Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities support and encourage passage of HB 248. This bill concerns the retirement contributions and benefits for youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents employed in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional institutions. Passage of this important legislation will correct a long-standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System which provides for retirement eligibility after twenty years of credited service to adult correctional officers and superintendents, and adult and juvenile probation officers, but denies this benefit to employees of juvenile detention and correctional facilities. We urge you to vote in favor of passage of HB 248. Thank you.

Signature	Printed Name	Institution
	Bruce Collins	MSYF
	Albert R. Phelan	MSYF
	DAVID L. BRUNER	MSYF
	Edward White	MSYF
	Fredric Brown	MSYF / MSBSSA
	Ed Stoum	MSYF / MSBSSA
	HARRY Goodnight	MSYF
	Lori L.H. Fuller	MSYF
	Steven Orozco	MSYF
	Ray Michaelson	MSYF
	ARRON TANNER	MSYF
	Andrea Ferhardt	MSYF
	DeeJana K. Engle	MSYF
	SEAN TYMAN	MSYF
	Kelli Mahoney	MSYF
	Thomas Peria	MSYF
	William P. Raymond	MSYF
	Andrea Peria	MSYF

PETITION SUPPORTING HB 248

We the undersigned, members of the Community Justice Coalition of Mat-Su, support and encourage the passage of HB 248 which allows the Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders and Superintendents of the state's juvenile correctional facilities, to enter into the Peace Officers Retirement System and become eligible to retire after 20 years of service to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Amy J. Dand
[Signature]

Amy L. Spargo
Suzanne C. [Signature]

Katherine Denton

[Signature]

[Signature]

Jodie Mann

Cynthia Sweet

[Signature]

Roxanne Lyson

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

YOUTH Counselor II
TANNER

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Rachel Loftis</u>	<u>Rachel Loftis</u>	<u>P.O. Box 570538 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Kustona mdyf</u>	<u>Kustona mdyf</u>	<u>P.O. Box 573072 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Mandy Tanner</u>	<u>Mandy Tanner</u>	<u>850 E. Agate Lane Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Linda Wilson</u>	<u>Linda Wilson</u>	<u>HC 30 Box 5598A Wasilla AK 99654</u>
<u>Shannon Parrish</u>	<u>Shannon Parrish</u>	<u>P.O. Box 961 PALMER AK 99645</u>
<u>Darby Meredith</u>	<u>Darby Meredith</u>	<u>700 Yakima St Wasilla 99687</u>
<u>Amanda Trout</u>	<u>Amanda Trout</u>	<u>1830 E Park Hwy Ste 211 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Adam P. Spencer</u>	<u>Adam P. Spencer</u>	<u>2701 Cottonwood Loop, Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Larry Hill</u>	<u>LARRY HILL</u>	<u>P.O. Box 222 PALMER AK 99645</u>
<u>Jodi Granherm</u>	<u>Jodi Granherm</u>	<u>P.O. Box 222 PALMER</u>
<u>Shane McNellis</u>	<u>Shane McNellis</u>	<u>P.O. Box 570726 Wasilla AK 99687</u>

Petition Supporting HB 248

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Rob Wood</u>	<u>Rob Wood</u>	<u>581 Outer Springer Loop Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Kim Collins</u>	<u>Kim Collins</u>	<u>HCO4 Box 9031 Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Peter D. Jones</u>	<u>PETER D. JONES</u>	<u>2913 FOSTER AVE JUNEAU, AK 99801</u>
<u>Albert E. Nelson</u>	<u>Albert E. Nelson</u>	<u>PO BOX 20543 JUNEAU, AK 99802</u>
<u>Alberta Jones</u>	<u>Alberta Jones</u>	<u>2973 Foster Ave. Juneau</u>
<u>Scott Dornbier</u>	<u>Scott Dornbier</u>	<u>6750 Gray St Juneau, AK 99801</u>
<u>John Lepore</u>	<u>John Lepore</u>	<u>P.O. Box 27517 Juneau, AK 99802</u>
<u>Frederic Brown</u>	<u>Frederic Brown</u>	<u>Box 3115 Palmer, AK 99645</u>
<u>Margaret Hogarty</u>	<u>Margaret Hogarty</u>	<u>3500 Snowgoose Dr Wasilla, 99654 Palmer 99645</u>
<u>William Burton</u>	<u>William Burton</u>	<u>1375 BRANDING IRON LAKE Palmer 99645</u>
<u>Jaune Tavanche</u>	<u>Jaune Tavanche</u>	<u>PO Box 877024 Wasilla AK 99687</u>

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>STEVEN A RAOFIRD</u>	<u>P.O. Box 871622</u> Wasilla, AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>CHARLES P. FARACI</u>	<u>P.O. Box 473251</u> Wasilla AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>DENISE GILBERT</u>	<u>HC31 Box 5262B</u> Wasilla AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>JOSE J. C. NARAYAN</u>	<u>P.O. Box 572781</u> Wasilla, AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>DAVID A. STICKLE</u>	<u>P.O. Box 4885</u> PALMER AK
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>JAMES C. HARTING</u>	<u>8001. Plymouth Cir</u> Wasilla, AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Doug Gibson</u>	<u>4194A Fairchild</u> CAP, AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>JEFFREY M. MCKENZIE</u>	<u>HC04 Box 9005</u> PALMER AK
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>DONALD E FARWELL</u>	<u>HC31 5078-C</u> Wasilla, AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Ben Hopper</u>	<u>2240 Caribou Cross Rd</u> Wasilla, AK 99687
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Jill Shagen</u>	<u>PO BOX 871247</u> Wasilla AK 99687

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Signature	Printed Name	Address
<u>Evelyn E. Conley</u>	<u>Evelyn E. Conley</u>	<u>P.O. Box 874394 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Dwight R. Bronich</u>	<u>Dwight R. Bronich</u>	<u>HC05 Box 9896 Palmer</u>
<u>Fred Van Wallinga</u>	<u>Fred Van Wallinga</u>	<u>P.O. Box 751 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Margaret Volz</u>	<u>Margaret Volz</u>	<u>P.O. Box 872539 Wasilla, AK 99687</u>
<u>Jami Anderson</u>	<u>Jami Anderson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 246 Palmer, AK</u>
<u>Tami K. Eller</u>	<u>Tami K. Eller</u>	<u>3001 Sakia, Wasilla, AK 99654</u>
<u>Vickie Perse</u>	<u>Vickie Perse</u>	<u>1655 Pioneer Peak Wasilla AK 99654</u>
<u>Vera Henschey</u>	<u>Vera Henschey</u>	<u>PO Box 874783 Wasilla AK 99687</u>
<u>Margaret Heaven</u>	<u>MARGARET HEAVEN</u>	<u>HC 31, Box 5113 WASILLA AK 99654</u>
<u>William Mahoney</u>	<u>WILLIAM MAHONEY</u>	<u>925 LOWE CUB WASILLA AK</u>
<u>Matt Mahoney</u>	<u>Matt Mahoney</u>	<u>925 Lowe Cub Drive wasilla AK 99654</u>

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: April 20, 2001

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 7 Mar 2002

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 248

HOUSE BILL NO. 248

PERS BENEFITS FOR JUV INSTIT EMPLOYEES

"An Act relating to retirement contributions and benefits under the public employees' retirement system of certain juvenile detention employees and juvenile correctional institution employees."

Recommends it be replaced with CS () [] Same Title [] New Title
 For Senate Bills with new title: [] Technical Title [] New Title: HCR _____

- [] attach amendments
- [] add new referral to _____ Committee
- [] Letter of Intent _____ Committee

List of
Abbrev.
For
Depts.:

- ADM
- CED
- COR
- CRT
- EED
- DEC
- DFG
- GOV
- HSS
- LAA
- LAW
- LWF
- MVA
- DNR
- DPS
- REV
- DOT
- UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*For Chief Clerk's Office Use Only				
FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
	ADM		✓	

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN #	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Reggie Wilson</i>	Wilson	✓			
<i>Harold Crawford Jr</i>	CRAWFORD	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	STEVENS	X			
<i>[Signature]</i>	JAMES	X			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Fade	✓			
Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>				

December 22, 2001

Dear Representative Coghill,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well as you travel to the 22nd legislative session. As you may recall Bernard Gatewood and I visited you recently to discuss **HB 248**, the juvenile corrections (youth counselor) 20-retirement bill that currently resides in your committee. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the compelling reasons I feel this bill deserves yours, and others, immediate attention.

- Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents, are the employees who are responsible for the safety, security, and programs within the States' seven juvenile correctional facilities.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice was formed in 1999, separating family services and juvenile corrections. Of the approximately 350 DJJ employees, Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents are the *only* DJJ employees not included in the 20-year peace officer retirement system.
- A similar inequity was recognized in 1990 when the Juvenile Probation Officers were included in the 20-year peace officer retirement system. It was determined that all probation officers, whether it be juvenile or adult, should be treated equally.
- The same argument holds true when comparing Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents to their adult counterparts.
- Youth Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents undergo similar recruitment, screening, and training as juvenile probation officers, adult correctional officers, and adult probation officers, yet do not receive equal pay and benefits.
- Youth counselors, Unit Leaders, and Superintendents are at equal if not greater risk than our adult counterparts due to the impulsivity and unpredictableness of adolescent criminal offenders.

I sincerely hope that you support this piece of legislation and convince others to do likewise. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Jeff Rigo

989 Willow Grouse Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712

January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

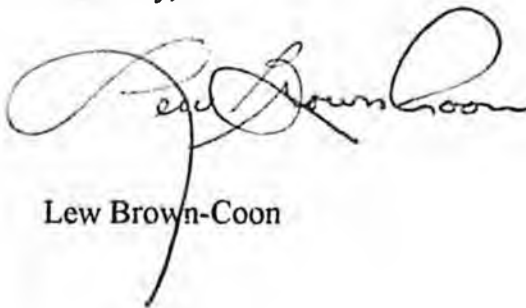
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more than a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lew Brown-Coon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lew Brown-Coon

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custodial, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselor" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct. 23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

January 26, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Anderson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Arthur Anderson

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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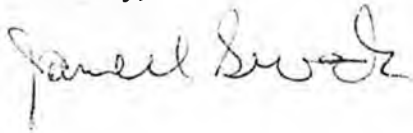
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamell Swader".

Jamell Swader

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brandy Coltellaro".

Brandy Coltellaro

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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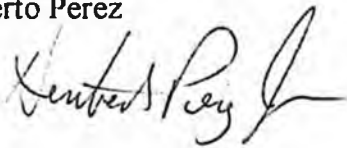
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Heriberto Perez

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heriberto Perez".

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice D. Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janice Anderson

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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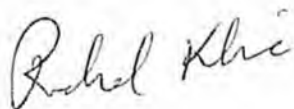
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Kline".

Richard Kline

HB 248

February 20, 2002

Rynniva:

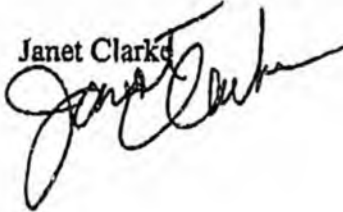
Attached are copies from the FY03 Rate development for various rates that Dept of Administration develops to charge State Agencies, which impact personal services.

Except for those items that are monetary terms of contracts (i.e. health insurance), departments do not normally request funds to pay for changes to rates, state agencies change their budget to "absorb" these costs by leaving positions vacant etc. You can also see that rates can vary from year to year.

I thought you could benefit by seeing this side of the issue when discussing the 20-year retirement bill for Youth Counselors.

If I can be of any other help, please call me at 465-1630.

Janet Clarke



WORKING RESERVE RATES				
Net Change FY02/FY03 3 rate total	LEAVE CASH-IN Department	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
		Rate	Rate	Budget Rate
-1.48%	Administration	2.52%	2.62%	1.79%
0.61%	Community and Economic Development	0.65%	1.96%	3.32%
-1.75%	Corrections	2.66%	3.19%	2.19%
-1.06%	Education and Early Development	1.75%	1.05%	0.72%
-0.60%	Environmental Conservation	1.26%	1.91%	2.06%
-1.01%	Fish and Game	4.50%	4.83%	4.67%
-1.92%	Governor's Office	3.62%	4.60%	3.43%
0.57%	Health and Social Services	0.90%	1.12%	2.43%
-0.29%	Labor and Workforce Development	1.58%	1.90%	2.36%
-1.23%	Law	1.71%	0.70%	0.19%
-0.93%	Military and Veterans Affairs	1.73%	2.04%	1.86%
-0.65%	Natural Resources	2.66%	3.03%	3.10%
0.04%	Public Safety	2.97%	2.76%	3.55%
0.94%	Public Safety PSEA	2.89%	1.83%	3.52%
-0.11%	Revenue	1.14%	1.08%	1.42%
-0.58%	Transportation and Public Facilities	1.44%	1.42%	1.59%
-2.25%	Legislative Affairs	3.10%	3.83%	2.33%
-4.56%	Legislative Audit	4.22%	8.08%	4.25%
-0.88%	Court System	0.64%	0.42%	0.29%
TERMINAL LEAVE				
		FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
		Rate	Rate	Budget Rate
	All Departments	1.88%	1.61%	0.76%
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE				
		FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
		Rate	Rate	Budget Rate
	All Departments	0.42%	0.27%	0.37%
<p>FY03 Usage is determined by using the average of the last three years of actual use. The payroll base is estimated at 60% of the FY02 budgeted amount for personal services.</p>				

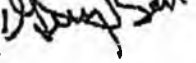
MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Administration

To: Dan Spencer
 Director
 Division of Administrative Services

Date: August 21, 2001
 File: 03_rates.doc

From: Guy Bell 
 Director
 Division of Retirement & Benefits

Telephone No.: 465-4471

Subject: FY 2003 Rates for Budget Instructions/Automated Budget System (ABS)

1. **Supplemental Benefit Rate and *estimated* maximum:**
 6.13% \$5,201.50 - based upon an estimated Social Security limit of \$85,000. The social security wage base and maximum FICA contribution for calendar 2001 will be finalized by the Social Security Administration and disseminated to states before November 1, 2001.
2. **Medicare Portion of Social Security and maximum:**
 1.45% (no maximum)

Note: This employer/employee tax applies to all employees hired after 3/31/86. Because ABS does not differentiate between individuals who must pay the tax and those who don't, a 1.0% figure is used in the calculation as a reasonable estimate.

3. **Retirement Rates:**

PERS (Code A & E): 7.20%
 PERS (Code F & P): 7.10%
 TRS (Code T): 11.00%
 Judicial - JRS (Code): 28.28%

4. **Health Insurance Rates:** NOTE: Rates are per full-time employee per month subject to bargaining unit contract negotiations.

Bargaining Code	Amount
AA, AP	\$630.00
GC	\$630.00
GG, GY	\$630.00
GP	\$630.00
BB, CC, MM	\$630.00
TA	\$630.00
TM	\$630.00
TC	\$630.00
KK	\$630.00
EE, XE, XJ, XL, XX, CS	\$630.00
SS	\$630.00
LL	\$630.00

5. **Life Insurance Rates:** All bargaining unit codes: \$1.50

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO:
<i>Rynniva Mass</i>
<i>Rep. Coghill</i>
<i>3258</i>
FAX NUMBER
<i>3719</i>
PHONE NUMBER

FROM:
<i>J. Clark</i>
DATE
NO. OF PAGES
465-2499
FAX NUMBER
<i>Vo30</i>
PHONE NUMBER

RE:

- URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY OTHER

NOTES/COMMENTS:

State of Alaska
 Department of Health & Social Services
 Division of Administrative Services/Director's Office
 P.O. Box 110650
 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0650

John Coghill
119 N. Cushman, Suite 211
Fairbanks, Alaska 99901
November 23, 2001

Dear Mr. Coghill:

My name is Catherine E. Bishop and I am a teacher for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, having taught there for almost twenty-five years. I am writing to you about the idea of an incentive for teachers of my years in the business to retire and make way for the younger ones. I realize that the idea of retiring teachers when there is supposed to be a teacher shortage sounds counter-productive but I feel if you read this letter, it will give a number of reasons why it isn't.

At my end of the pay scale I currently support a salary of \$58,650.00. When one contrasts that with the salary currently given for new teachers in my district, \$33,500.00, then the difference is significant.

There are about thirty teachers in my district that are at my level of years or greater and if you consider that amount of teachers at a cost of nearly \$59,000.00 each, then the amount being expended at the upper end is in excess of \$1,770,000.0 just for that handful of people.

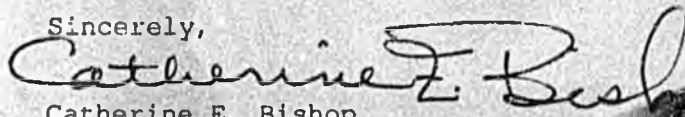
If one were to hire thirty teachers at the beginning salary it would total \$1,140,000.00. The difference, \$630,000.00 could be utilized to hire about twenty-five more new teachers. It would mean that the district could lower teacher-student ratios and put money saved into necessary areas. It would also mean a younger crop of teachers with the necessary savings on medical care that younger and probably more healthy people would bring to the table.

It would be useful in this negotiations year for not only my district but many others to have flexibility in the costs of running a system like this. Salaries and benefits are always a huge dividing line between management and employees. If the offer of retiring early was made, it would not only benefit those of us who would happily choose that option but also the district that must make dollars go farther now with declining oil revenues. It would also give newer unemployed teachers a chance to begin their careers. There are plenty of them out there too.

I hope that you will consider this and back proposals regarding early retirement. I am going out this year. My parents aren't young and they need me. Many of my older colleagues are faced with the same choices. Having an incentive will make a difficult decision much easier to make.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Catherine E. Bishop

Catherine E. Bishop



John Coghill
119 N. Cushman, Suite 211
Fairbanks, Alaska 99901
November 23, 2001

Dear Mr. Coghill:

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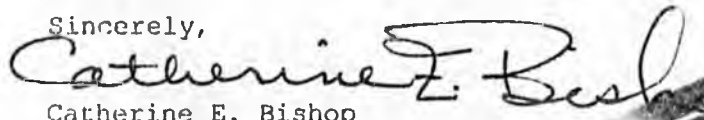
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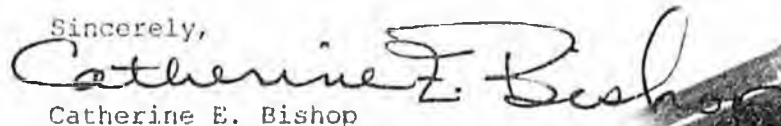
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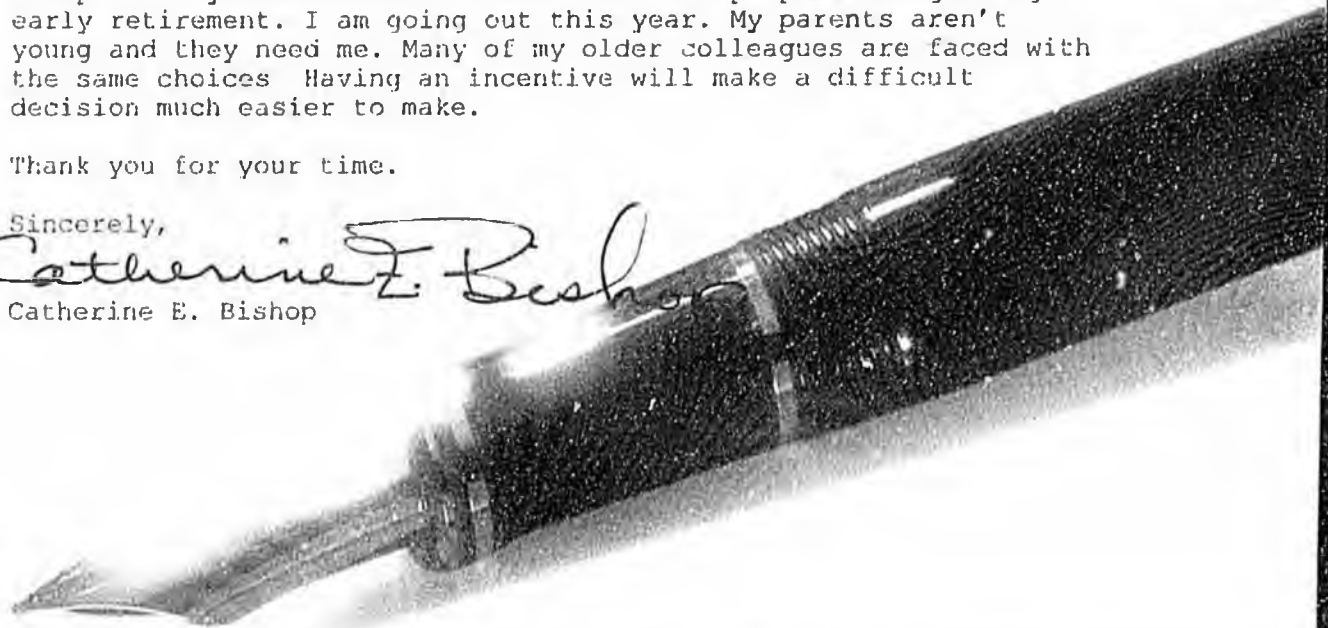
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine E. Bishop". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Catherine E. Bishop



January 22, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182.

William P. Raymond Jr.
659 East Eklutna
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

My name is William Raymond and I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), which supports the passage of HB 248 (20-year retirement for Youth Counselors sponsored by Reps. Williams and Kerttula). This association was formed in the early 1990s to support similar legislation, which passed both the House and Senate at that time. Unfortunately, Governor Hickel vetoed the 20-year bill. Now, the association has been reformed and is made up of Youth Counselor class employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and others. We strongly support the scheduling of a hearing on HB 248 in the House State Affairs Committee so the legislation can be voted on and moved to its next review by House Finance.

AJCOA has a more than 10-year history fighting for fairness with fellow DJJ employees who are in the Peace Officers Retirement System. Your passage of HB 248 is an important step toward this goal. I am sure that our 20-year retirement push will have wide support in the House among your fellow representatives.

Please consider swift passage of this legislation out of your committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

William P. Raymond Jr.
William P. Raymond, Jr.

January 21, 2002

Rep. John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Ray Michaelson
P.O. Box 331
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and am employed by the Division Of Juvenile Justice as the Superintendent of the Mat-Su Youth Facility in palmer. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year retirement for other state employees. HB 248 represents an effort by Youth Counselors in AJCOA, which dates back to the early 1990s. Then Gov. Hickel vetoed SB 32 (20-year retirement), which had passed both the House and Senate. The AJCOA has supported this effort for more that a decade and 20-year retirement is overdue for the Youth Counselors.

I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray Michaelson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

January 22, 2002

Representative John Coghill
State Capitol Room #102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Kathrine Shankel
4001 Edinburgh Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Representative Coghill,

My name is Kathrine Shankel and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Unit Leader in the McLaughlin Youth Center Facility in Anchorage. I joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) recently to support the passage of the 20-year retirement legislation for Youth Counselors, HB 248.

As I believe you are already aware, a great inequity in the retirement system exists within DJJ. Almost all other employees in DJJ are in the 20 year Peace Officers Retirement System and have been for sometime. I have attached here a list of items for your consideration which describe the inequities that exist in the current system.

As Chair of the State Affairs Committee, I know that you can make HB 248 move to a hearing. I certainly support such an action as a Unit Leader and an AJCOA member. I am confident that HB 248 will have support in both the House and the Senate when they see it, as this is so clearly a basic equity and fairness issue.

Mr. Coghill, your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kathrine Shankel

Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth Counselors

- There is a long standing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System. Currently adult correctional officers and superintendents, adult probation officers, and juvenile probation officers are all eligible for 20 year peace officer retirement. Despite being identified peace officers in Alaska Statute 47.12.270 and performing job duties substantially similar to their adult corrections counterparts, youth counselors are excluded from this retirement system.
- The job title "Youth Counselor" is misleading. Youth counselors perform all of the security, custody, and control functions in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. In addition to these functions, youth counselors are responsible for rehabilitation and treatment services for delinquent youth.
- In an Alaska Court of Appeals ruling regarding a youth convicted and sentenced for assaulting a youth counselor in an attempt to escape from McLaughlin Youth Center, the Court states that "the "youth counselors" employed by the Department of Health and Social Services at juvenile institutions like McLaughlin are expected to perform duties that are analogous to the duties entrusted to corrections officers at adult institutions." (WILSON, Jr. v. STATE of Alaska. Oct.23, 1998)
- Youth Counselors are required to complete a minimum of 160 hours of training in their first year of employment. Although there is no formal training "academy" for DJJ employees, youth counselor training includes security procedures, supervision of juveniles, use of force regulations and tactics, suicide precautions, fire and emergency procedures, first aid/CPR, and counseling skills. This training is consistent with standards established by the American Correctional Association.
- Like adult correctional officers, youth counselors are responsible for supervising, controlling, and caring for offenders whose behavior has necessitated secure confinement. Additionally, the youthfulness and immaturity of juvenile offenders often results in a level of impulsive behavior beyond that generally seen in adult populations.
- Including youth counselors, unit leaders, and superintendents in the peace officer retirement system would be consistent with the benefits afforded similar job classes in adult corrections and juvenile justice, and would correct an existing inequity in the Public Employees Retirement System.

Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Subcommittee Chair
Environmental Conservation
Courts

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(907) 465-3424
Fax (907) 465-3793

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Ketchikan, AK 99901
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Fax (907) 225-7157

Representative William K. Williams

Sponsor Statement For HB 248

20 Year Retirement Provision for Juvenile Officer

Presently, Alaska law (AS 39.35.370(a)(2)) states that peace officers and firefighters are entitled to normal retirement benefit after 20 years of service. HB 248 adds "juvenile officers" to AS 39.35.370(a)(2) as employees eligible to participate in the 20 year retirement system. The term "juvenile officer" is defined to mean a "youth counselor, unit leader, or superintendent in a juvenile detention or juvenile correctional facility". Generally speaking, these "juvenile officers" are the employees who work with juveniles *inside* a correctional facility. They have the same or very similar training, and authority to restrain and arrest individuals as other peace officers.

Juveniles who are in a correctional facility are there for reasons such as commission of a serious crime, mental health problems, substance abuse problems, or a combination of all of these issues. Such juveniles demand the highest level of care and rehabilitation efforts, while at the same time, presenting the highest level of risk to juvenile officers.

Presently, probation officers and other employees working with juveniles *outside* a correctional facility qualify for a 20 year retirement. As presently written, the statutes create an uneven situation where a probation officer working outside a correctional facility could arrest and deliver a juvenile to a correctional facility. The officer outside the facility would be entitled to a 20 year retirement while the officers inside the facility are not. Adult correctional officers also qualify for a 20 year retirement.

Providing a 20 year retirement system for juvenile officers is fair since these employees perform the same or very similar work duties as other employees charged with preserving public safety. It also creates an incentive for existing juvenile officers to remain in their positions and will attract qualified applicants for new positions.