

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 8672

10438 HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

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

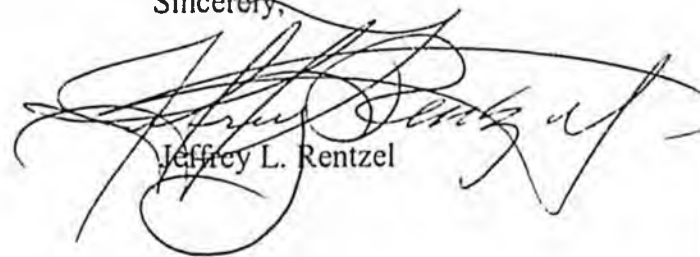
Dear Rep. Coghill,

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

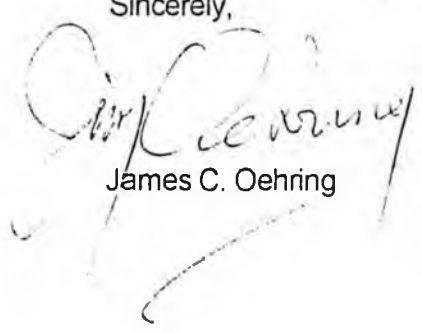
Dear John:

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,

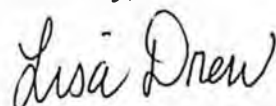
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the Fairbanks Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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,

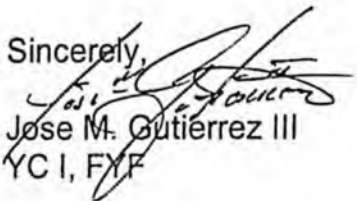
My name is, Jose , and I work for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as a Youth Counselor I, in the Fairbanks Youth Facility. I recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA), to support the passage of the Youth Counselor 20-year retirement legislation, HB 248.

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,

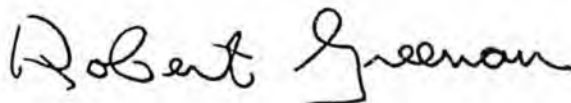
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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.

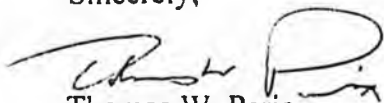
Before becoming a Youth Counselor I served as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer for 9 years. Due to the often unpredictable nature of Juvenile Offenders during the two years I have worked as a Youth Counselor I have seen as many violent acts if not more than when I served as Federal Law Enforcement Officer. 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,

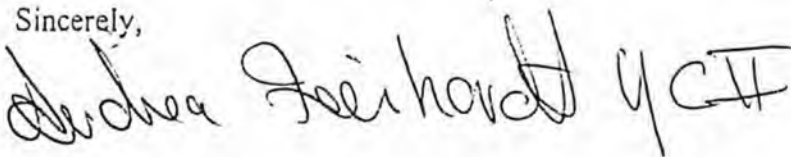
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at Mat-Su Youth Facility. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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 cursive script that reads "Andrea Freihardt YCTH". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed 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,

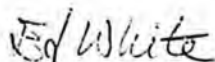
As a juvenile correctional officer, I have seen many of my fellow officers, hurt maliciously by juvenile offenders. They have fashioned weapons out of materials like combs and toothbrushes. I also have been physically assaulted. Every day I work with police, probation officers, parents, and attorneys.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

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

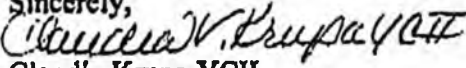
Rep. Bill Williams  
State Capitol Room 511  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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

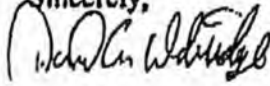
Darius Aldridge  
Youth Counselor II  
5340 E26th #54  
Anch, AK 99508

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,

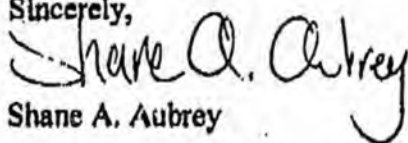
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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,

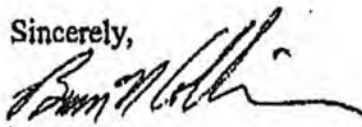
Thank you very much for your sponsorship of House Bill 248 that places Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officer's Retirement System. I am employed by the Division of Juvenile Justice as a Unit Leader, and have recently joined the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA)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

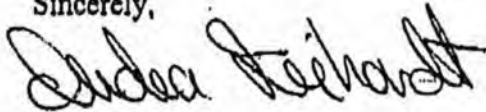
Youth Counselor II  
Andrea Freihardt  
HC-34 Box 2673  
Wasilla, AK 99654

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,

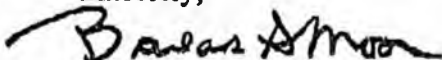
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 248 that places the Youth Counselor series employees of the Division of Juvenile Justice into the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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

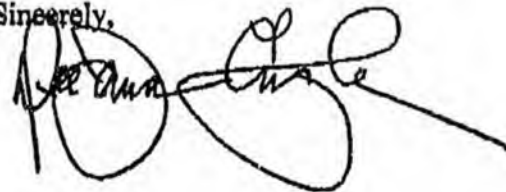
Dear Rep. Williams,

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

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 "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)
- 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,

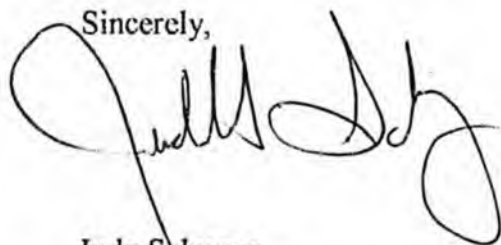
I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer II at the McLaughlin Youth Center and strongly support the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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 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 black ink, appearing to read "Gary Schwarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "G" and "S".

Gary Schwarz

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,

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

- 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.

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,

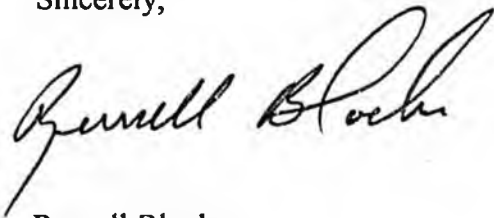
I am a member of the Alaska Juvenile Correctional Officers Association (AJCOA) and work as a Youth Counselor at the McLaughlin Youth Center. My association strongly supports the passage of HB 248, which includes Youth Counselor series employees in the Peace Officers Retirement System.

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 "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**

- 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,

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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 "Dennis Weston", with a 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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

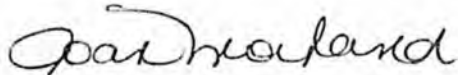
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Moyland".

Joan Moyland

## **Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors**

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January 22, 2002

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Sheila Graham  
Sheila

## Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 22, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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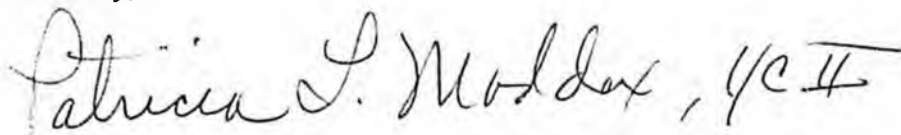
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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**

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January 22, 2002

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

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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,

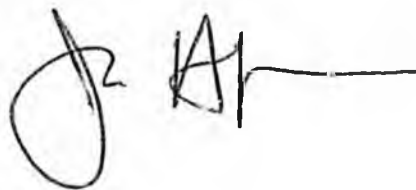
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as we work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' followed by a horizontal line.

Jim Heafner

## Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 26, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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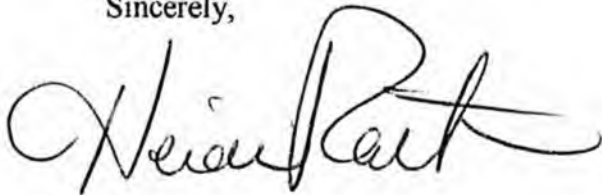
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heidi Rath". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'H' and 'R'.

Heidi Rath

## 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,

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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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

I work as a Juvenile Probation Officer III 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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Gary Caddell

January 26, 2002

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

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Matt Callahan

## Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 22, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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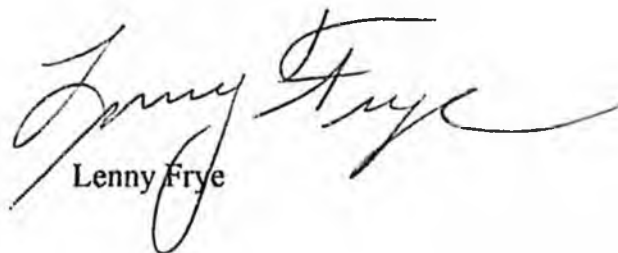
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It is my understanding that this particular piece of legislation currently resides in the House State Affairs Committee, which you chair. I also understand that there are other pieces of similar legislation in your committee, which deal with 20-year 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,



Lenny Frye

## 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.

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 "DeeDee Raymond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

DeeDee Raymond

January 26, 2002

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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

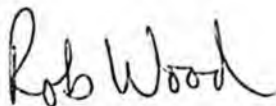
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I urge you to pass this legislation out of the State Affairs Committee as a sign of support for Youth Counselors as they work toward parity with the rest of the employees in the Division of Juvenile Justice who enjoy a peace officers retirement benefit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Wood".

Rob Wood

January 22, 2002

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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

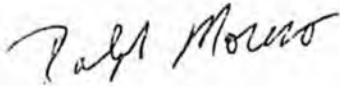
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Ralph Moreno

## 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

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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 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

- 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.
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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,



Bernie Person

## Support for HB 248, Twenty Year Retirement for Youth counselors

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January 26, 2002

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State Capitol Room #102  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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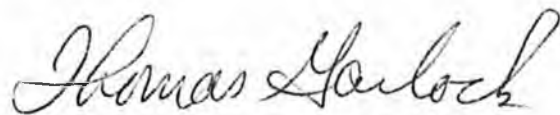
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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

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January 22, 2002

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

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Boudreau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Boudreau

January 22, 2002

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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

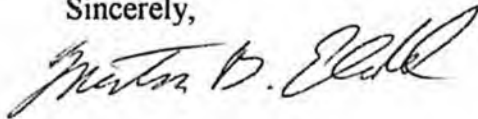
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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

Martin Eldred,

January 22, 2002

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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

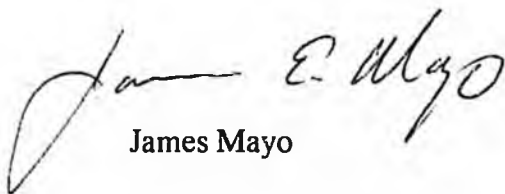
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



James Mayo

January 22, 2002

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

Dear Rep. Coghill,

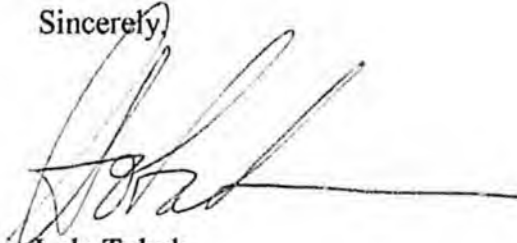
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Lola Tobuk

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 "Chairi Agnew".

Chairi Agnew

January 22, 2002

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

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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,

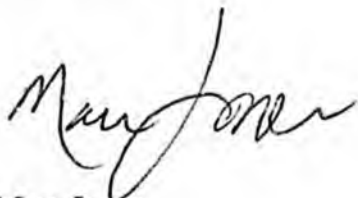
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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc Jones".

Marc Jones