

Southwest Region School District
P.O. Box 90
Dillingham, AK 99576

April 18, 2017

Alaska State Legislature
Attn: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,

Southwest Region School District is in support of the changes proposed in HB 224 "An Act relating to reemployment of persons who retire under the teachers' retirement system." The District continues to struggle with the declining number of candidates who seek employment within the teaching profession in Alaska. This legislation will help to provide additional candidates for consideration who are already versed and have previously found success in teaching and living in Alaska.

In order to obtain the greatest number of potential candidates, please consider making additional changes to the proposed language within Sec. 14.20.136. Reemployment of member of teachers' retirement system, a) of this section unless the member has been retired for at least, (2) three months OR six months OR nine months [one year] if the member is less than 62 years of age. The age of a retired member should not be a factor for a member who retired under NORMAL retirement. However, a waiting period of less than one 365-day period would provide for more individuals to be available mid-year when recruiting efforts come up against increased shortages in the pool of candidates.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that the Public Educational System within Alaska remains strong.

Sincerely yours,



David J. Piazza
Superintendent

CC: Representative Jennifer Johnston
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Representative Chris Tuck
Representative Adam Wool
Representative Chris Birch
Representative DeLena Johnson
Representative Gary Knopp
ACSA – Lisa Skiles Parady