

ALASKA AFL-CIO

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VINCE BELTRAMI
Executive President



JIM DUNCAN
Secretary / Treasurer

March 15.2018

House Finance Committee
Attn: Rep. Neal Foster, chair

RE: support for CSSB 78

Dear Chair Foster and members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of Alaska's largest labor organization, I would like to go on record in support of CSSB 78, the Alaska Permanent Fund Education Raffle. Education funding is of paramount importance each year and as you well know it is always a struggle to find agreement when it comes to funding. SB 78 offers a completely voluntary program which would bolster funding for education while enticing people to participate with a good old-fashioned motivator: the chance to win!

At a time when we are still experiencing multi-billion deficits and the legislature cannot agree on any of the traditional solutions to close the budget gap, CSSB 78 could produce a quarter of a billion dollars in education funding over the next decade. While it doesn't solve our fiscal crisis it is a creative approach that raises much needed revenue. The bill had near unanimous support in the state senate with a 19-1 vote on final passage. No other measure to raise revenue has been more strongly agreed upon.

Please pass CSSB 78 out of House Finance and get it to the floor as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Vince Beltrami
President