
From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2016 10:36 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: FW: Hb 379 testimony

From: David Nees [mailto:davidneesak@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2016 7:30 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hb 379 testimony

This is a follow up to my oral testimony on this bill.
I was a teacher in ASD during the step and lane freeze in the 1980s.
For six years my wife and I lost \$1400 each annual step increases,(longevity pay). Total loss of income \$16,800 each, we were never able to regain our steps.

Although a hardship it allowed us to remain employed and pay our mortgage.
We were thriftier and had less discretionary spending, but we were employed.
Districts that did not choose this path laid off staff and teachers and cut programs.
I believe hb379 is a jobs bill that will save state employees their jobs.

I support this fiscally sound bill.
David Nees
2542 curlew circle
Anchorage Ak 99502

On a further note, the freeze probably saved the district and state \$ on TRS contributions and my retirement.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:09 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: ATTENTION!!!!

From: chayna azlin [mailto:chayna_azlin_1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: ATTENTION!!!!

Dear Legislator,

State Employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that the state employees review, administer and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. these concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the state at least 57 million the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB379 is a shameless disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 6:54 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: HB 379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beverly Lewanski <bevlewanski@hotmail.com>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 11:20:47 PM AKDT
To: "Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov"
<Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. **The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward. In addition, please look at your own salaries and travel budgets and make appropriate cuts, afterall, you folks are really NOT getting anything accomplished this session. It's pretty disgusting!!!**

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees. State employees are truly “public servants”.

Sincerely,

Bev Lewanski

Writing in support of the few state employees I happen to know! They are all working very, very, hard!!

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 6:54 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: HB379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alberta Lippitt <albertalippitt@hotmail.com>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 10:23:07 PM AKDT
To: "mailto:" <representative.steve.thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB379

I am writing in opposition to HB379. Public service is not the same as private industry. The missions are completely different, service versus profit. Several Bargaining Units have made major concessions in their new contracts, no annual COLAs, increased contribution to health insurance costs, and furloughs. These employees will join all other Alaskans in whatever plan is conceived for all residents to share in deficit reduction, income tax or sale tax, revised Permanent Fund plan. State employees will be sacrificing more than other residents in helping to reduce the deficit as a result. In addition, many State workers do not live extravagantly and receive housing assistance or have a second job just to make ends meet now. They would likely not make if the current situation lasts for several years without an increase in pay. State workers have made the commitment to work for the State and should be supported. Please consider Mr. Duncan's testimony before your committee on April 21, 2016, regarding this bill. He gave very relevant information that should help you to reach a decision. Please oppose HB379.

Thank you

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 7:01 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: HB 379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: carrie curtis <carriebcurtis@yahoo.com>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 6:21:29 PM AKDT
To: "Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov" <Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov" <Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov" <Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov" <Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov" <Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov" <Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov" <Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov" <Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov" <Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>, "Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov" <Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov" <Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>, "Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov" <Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>, "Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov" <Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379
Reply-To: carrie curtis <carriebcurtis@yahoo.com>

Dear Legislator,

I know that some of are against HB 379 and some of you are fully behind it. This is to those who continue to support HB 379 and neglect that state employees also have families to raise and bills to pay. You continue to throw the responsibility on state employees only as if we were the cause. This is an Alaskan problem, not a state employee problem. I have added my representatives to this email as well so they are aware of where I stand on this issue. Your constituents will not forget come voting season.

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

HB 379 suspends the last wage benefit for thousands of state employees who have already made concessions during good faith contract negotiations. These concessions include no COLA and 6 days of furlough over the life of the contract. The agreement is expected to save the State at least \$7 million in the first year.

State employees are doing their share and are willing to help. HB 379 is a shameless and disproportionate cost-shifting of the deficit burden to state employees.

Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

Sincerely,
Carrie Curtis

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 7:02 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: HB 379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ellen Hackenmueller <ehackenmueller@gmail.com>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 6:04:39 PM AKDT
To: <Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 379

Dear Legislator,

State employees are the face and backbone of all state services. All Alaskans, visitors, and non-resident workers are affected by the quality of service and the integrity of policies that state employees review, administer, and deliver.

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Cuts will not solve Alaska's budget crisis. HB 379 has reached the point of diminishing returns for Alaska. The budget process requires revenue reform to move Alaska forward.

Please OPPOSE HB 379 and other efforts to end merit increases and pay increments for state employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 7:07 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: Please Do Not Support HB379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Don Slone <Don@livingstonslone.com>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 3:45:41 PM AKDT
To: "Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov"
<Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Do Not Support HB379

Dear Representative Thompson,

I learned that HB379 attempts to change the *merit* pay system. You have many tough choices to make in your efforts to balance the state budget, but let me share why this is a bad idea for the economy — particularly the private construction sector.

As an owner of an architectural & engineering company, I know how vital knowledgeable and competent public sector employees are to the success of our business. As designers of buildings, we are responsible for the life and safety of the public. But we don't do that alone.

Throughout the design and construction process, we interact heavily with government building officials. We need their knowledgeable and timely responses. If they are not the best, we are not the best. Worse yet, if they are incompetent or overloaded, our projects run into significant and sometimes disastrous problems.

We saw this happen in the late 80's recession. The State dramatically cut employee compensation packages, it lost its best employees. This dramatically affected our ability to get the responses needed to make projects successful. Designers, contractors and owner's were all affected by the State's inability to meet their core responsibilities. Folks needlessly lost time and money. Lawsuits rose dramatically.

In the end, those State cuts made an already bad economy even worse for the AE & construction industries, costing more than they saved.

Please don't let that happen again by driving away good, experienced state workers. The merit system motivates and retains experienced employees.

Please oppose HB379.

Thank You,

Don Slone, PE

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 7:05 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: Oppose HB 379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <vania@alaska.net>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 4:26:49 PM AKDT
To: <Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Cc: <Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>, <Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Craig.Johnson@akleg.gov>, <Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose HB 379

Dear Representative Thompson and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a lifelong Alaskan having been born in Juneau and growing up in Anchorage. I have been a state employee for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game since 1987. I have dedicated nearly 24 years of service to the State of Alaska working to protect the sustainability of fisheries resources for all Alaskans as well as working to provide opportunity for commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence users across the state.

I am writing today to express my opposition to HB 379 based upon the following points.

- 1) 1) \$90 a barrel appears to be an arbitrary figure. It will likely be many years before the state will ever see \$90 a barrel again. Because of this, the state will have to take actions to diversify our economy and generate new sources of revenue coupled with reductions in state spending. As this occurs, the private sector will progress and grow while public employees will remain stagnant. Public employee wages should not be tied into a single source of revenue that is driven by world markets.

2) 2) Sponsors of the bill testify that merit increases should not be given to public employees while private sector employees are being laid off. This appears to be a generalized statement since the only examples given for layoffs are within the oil industry. What other industries are experiencing layoffs? Tourism, fishing, medical, construction, hospitality, military, travel, are just a few industries that come to mind. How are these industries doing? Didn't the minimum wage just get increased? I suggest you reach out to ENSTAR and ask them about bonuses being paid out in 2015.

3) 3) The State has also reduced its workforce, not just through attrition and leaving positions vacant, but also with employees being laid off. These reductions have all been the result of budget cuts to departments the last two legislative cycles. These cuts have left the remaining workforce with increased workloads and a public that expects the same level of service. This bill also comes up after legislation already made reductions to department budgets.

4) 4) Public employees have already contributed to reduction in state expenditures through contract negotiations which, in part, increased the employee's contribution to medical expenses and forgone COLA increases.

5) 5) Since it appears that the examples used to compare sharing the burden of the state's fiscal crisis relates to the reductions to the oil industry, I think it is only fair to point out that the industry and its employees reaped the benefits during years of high oil prices while public employees maintained a modest, agreed upon amount.

6) 6) Public employees will share the burden the same as all Alaskans via a tax increase and/or restructured dividend. A tax increase and/or restructured dividend coupled with a freeze in merit increases results in public employees having to bear more of the burden. Unless you implement a tax on everyone and/or restructure the dividend program, then private sector is not sharing the burden.

7) 7) A pay freeze affects retirement income long after the fiscal crisis goes away. I have invested 24 years of my life to the state, forgoing opportunities for bigger rewards in private sector for stability of state government work. I chose this stability and modest salary rather than work in the fishing industry where I could make as much money with only 3 months of work. This decision was based upon the knowledge of a stable wage and benefit package. HB 136 changes the rule of the game after the game is over.

8) 8) Merit increases are not automatic. An acceptable evaluation has to be written. Maybe a better solution is to reform the process by increasing the bar for merit increases to highly

acceptable or outstanding. Allow the administration to negotiate in good faith instead of ruling with an iron fist and dictating terms.

In closing, I would just like to address a comment made by one of the bill sponsors who said, “65% of the state’s income is gone.....” I suggest the legislative body address the fiscal reform package to solve the fiscal dilemma. HB 379 bill will not fix that problem.

Respectfully,

Thomas D. Vania

7247 Tyre Dr.

Anchorage, AK

907-349-1223

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 7:02 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: Fwd: What's wrong with SB379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alyssa <alyssahobbs78@gmail.com>
Date: April 22, 2016 at 4:34:09 PM AKDT
To: <representative.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov>, <representative.sam.kito.III@akleg.gov>, <representative.les.gara@akleg.gov>, <representative.mark.neuman@akleg.gov>, <representative.dan.saddler@akleg.gov>, <representative.steve.thompson@akleg.gov>, <representative.lance.pruitt@akleg.gov>, <representative.lynn.gattis@akleg.gov>, <representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.com>, <representative.tammie.wilson@akleg.gov>, <representative.david.guttenberg@akleg.gov>, <representative.scott.kawasaki@akleg.gov>, <representative.mike.hawker@akleg.gov>
Subject: What's wrong with SB379

- Let's just start with the public process. This bill was introduced after the regular session was extended even after its sponsor admitted it had been in the works since day one. The legislature also ignored their own 24 hour rule dictating when they need to announce hearings and public testimony.
- State employees have already agreed to many concessions in the current bargaining agreements: no cost-of-living adjustment increases for 3 years (unprecedented), unpaid furlough days, as well as a decrease in the employer amount toward their healthcare premiums. State employees have known since last session that these concessions were needed and stepped up to the plate.
- This bill states that merit increases can be reconsidered only if oil reaches \$90/barrel and stays there for an entire year. In the current Department of Revenue 10 year forecast, that never happens. How's that for morale boosting?
- Many departments, include public safety, already have problems with retention since other municipalities and states have better benefits than Alaska. If we remove merit increases, we further take ourselves out of the running for attracting quality employees.
- As it stands, merit increases are revenue neutral because new employees come into the system at the lowest pay range while high paid individuals are retiring.
- We need our legislators to get a fiscal plan together. We've all known that since day one. This bill is a disingenuous distraction to the real work needed.

Please vote no on SB 379.

Sincerely,
A concerned constituent