From:	Miller, Mark <mark.miller@juneauschools.org>
Sent:	Monday, April 17, 2017 1:04 PM
To:	Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Robert Ervine; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Stephanie Gilardi
Cc:	Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Gary Knopp; Lisa Parady
Subject:	In support of HB 224

Representative Johnston:

Thank you for introducing HB 224- the so called "retire-rehire" bill. I would like to go on record as supporting this bill for a number of reasons.

1. In many Alaskan Native cultures Elders are seen as key to passing on knowledge. While I don't necessarily think there is a direct parallel, the fact of the matter is teachers and administrators who have years of experience and historical knowledge can be an invaluable resource to a school district and its community. To waste this resource because a person has turned 62 and is collecting a retirement owed to them by the state seems short sighted and foolish.

2. Children born today in many parts of the U.S. have an average life expectancy of 100 years! The baby boomers who are retiring now are likely to live at least another 30 years. This is a huge portion of our population that still has at least a third of their lives to go. This bill has the potential to stem the "brain drain" we are experiencing as many of our best and brightest leave education.

3. The talent pool for teachers and administrators in education is evaporating. Our youth are not going into teaching as they have in the past. Positions go unfilled every year, or are simply band-aided with long term substitutes. Encouraging retired professionals to keep working with Alaska's children while we work systemically to solve the problem would be very helpful.

Again, thank you for introducing the bill. I am in full support of the bill. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Mark Miller, Ed.D.

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