



Nome Public Schools

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Shawn Arnold, Superintendent

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To: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

From: Shawn Arnold, Superintendent

Date: April 18, 2017

RE: Letter of Support House Bill 224

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 224, “An Act relating to reemployment of persons who retire under the teachers' retirement 2 system,” which will be heard today in the House State Affairs Committee.

Current laws place deterrents on teachers who retire and want to re-enter their position or a similar one in a school district. Teachers retirements mean school districts lose years of experience and invaluable community connections. Given the current teacher shortage across Alaska, districts need innovative ways to keep as many teachers as possible and retired teachers need an additional monetary incentive to get back on the bus. This bill would be a way to keep teachers in Alaska instead of having them retire and leaving to teach in another state. If they could have an incentive to stay on, draw a salary and retirement wage while not having to officially retire, that might get some people to stay. This change might also help convince some retired teachers who are on the fence to return to fill the gaps in special education and other subjects, even if just for a year or two. We are going to need all doors to stay open while the University of Alaska system works on getting more people into the system. Providing a tool to encourage retired educators to return to work would be an asset for any district in Alaska.

Thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts and I would hope that you support House Bill 224. Should you wish I would be pleased to discuss these issues further at your convenience.

Shawn Arnold
Superintendent