

From: Norm Wooten
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SB 185 - Retire/Rehire of Teachers & Administrators
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 6:44:53 AM

Good Morning Chair MacKinnon and Members of Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Norm Wooten and I am the Executive Director of the Association of Alaska School Boards. I speak to you in support of SB 185. AASB's Delegate Assembly has had a resolution in place to support retire/rehire of teachers and administrators since 2008 when the previous retire/rehire provision was due to sunset. I previously testified in support of SB 185 in Senate Education as well as the companion bill HB 224 in House Education. There is a shortage of teachers and administrators nationwide and Alaska is no different. This is especially true for hard to fill teaching positions such as special ed, HS math and science and principals. Districts are traveling to outside job fairs to recruit as well as utilizing creative tactics to attract teachers and principals. Many are creating videos to attract applicants. Last week as I was waiting on a flight in Anchorage I viewed on the airport channel a recruiting video from the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. AASB, along with the Alaska Superintendents Association have had to appeal to the Retirement Division for waivers to permit retired superintendents to fill interim positions for late-in-the-season positions when the candidate pool was too narrow for a good selection. The retire/rehire is not a permanent solution. AASB, along with our colleagues in the education community, are working with the UA system to attract and retain teachers and administrators. However, this bill would help alleviate the shortage in the near term. We thank the sponsor, Senator Micciche, for bringing this bill forward and the Senate Finance Committee for hearing it.

I am available for questions at (907) 463-1660 or nwooten@aswb.org

Thank you