

Testimony from Matt Moser on behalf of NEA-Alaska regarding Senate Bill 185 before the House Finance Committee April 17, 2018

- NEA-Alaska supports having a qualified educator in front of every Alaska student at the beginning of the school year. We believe this legislation is one tool to help make that a reality.
- NEA-Alaska is supportive of efforts to return our veteran educators to the classroom.
- NEA-Alaska's understanding is that Senate Bill 185 will not affect existing collective bargaining units of certificated educators.
- Collective Bargaining Agreements in districts that cover all "certificated educators" would continue to cover all "certificated educators", including retired-rehired educators and that the terms and conditions of employment would continue to be subject to collective bargaining agreements with the exception of continued employment.
- NEA-Alaska believes this is a bandaid for ensuring that students have a certified educator in every classroom. We strongly believe that the state legislature and governor will need to take a hard look at how to actually attract and retain quality educators. We believe that will happen by returning to a defined benefit, looking at salaries keeping up with inflation, and strong mentorship and professional development programs.